

Moroccan, Spanish banks in W. Bank deal

TEL AVIV (R) — Banks from Israel, Morocco and Spain have signed an agreement to set up a new commercial bank in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in cooperation with Palestinian businessmen, Israeli Bank Leumi said on Sunday. Bank Leumi, one of Israel's biggest commercial banks, named its other banking partners as Banque Commerciale du Maroc and Spain's Banco Central Hispano. It did not identify the Palestinian businessmen or give the name of the new bank. In a brief statement Bank Leumi said each of the four groups would invest \$10 million in the venture, meeting a \$20 million equity requirement set by Israel's central bank. The Bank of Israel has expressed support for projects aimed at improving banking services and boosting local and foreign investment in areas slated for Palestinian self-rule under the Israel-PLO peace deal. The banking agreement was sealed during a visit to Morocco and Spain last week by Bank Leumi Chairman Moshe Zaubar. Bank Leumi said the new bank would open branches in the main cities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but gave no date. Israeli commercial banks closed shops in the occupied territories after the start of the Palestinian uprising in 1987.

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Israel begins freeing former expellees

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel on Sunday began freeing from prison some of the 197 Palestinians it expelled to South Lebanon a year ago and who had returned on Wednesday to Israeli jails, a military source said. "The process of freeing them began in the (West Bank) prisons of Dahariya and Faraa and from the Ketzioh detention centre (south Israel), and the first of them have begun coming out," he said. Israeli radio reported that 132 of the former exiles were to join their loved ones from Sunday evening and that about 10 others would be let go on Monday.

U.S. senator denies discussing Israelis

BEIRUT (AP) — A U.S. congressman Sunday denied that he and four colleagues had made contact in Syria with Palestinians and Iranian-backed militants to discuss the fate of six missing Israelis. Sen. Dennis DeConcini of Arizona, a Democrat, made the denial in a telephone call to the Associated Press office in Beirut from Jerusalem, which the group is currently visiting. "We did not have contacts with Hizbollah or Palestinian radicals or any (radical) group in Syria or any place else," Mr. DeConcini said to be acknowledged that the five congressmen did discuss the issue of the missing Israelis with Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa in Damascus and "thanked him for the cooperation of Syria on this issue."

Curbs on Egyptians going to Syria

CAIRO (R) — Egypt said on Sunday it had imposed restrictions on its citizens travelling to Syria with immediate effect. "Egyptians must now apply for a special permit from the Interior Ministry for the protection of citizens and to prevent anything bad they could face," the Interior Ministry said in a brief statement. Large numbers of Egyptian workers have recently returned from Syria, complaining they were maltreated in Syrian prisons. About 30 Egyptian workers, accused of being illegal aliens, have been returning weekly since Syria began to expel them in October, Cairo airport officials said. The workers told reporters they had spent up to 50 days in Syrian prisons. A spokesman at the Syrian embassy told Reuters his country had nothing to do with the new travel restrictions.

Beijing post possible for Aspin

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House said Sunday the "door is open" to Les Aspin to become U.S. ambassador to China after his resignation as defence secretary becomes effective next month. "I think that door is open," White House Chief of Staff Thomas McLarty said when asked whether Mr. Aspin would become envoy to Beijing, during an interview on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley." "The door is open to a number of opportunities in this administration, perhaps including that one," Mr. McLarty added. He said it would be a decision for President Bill Clinton and Mr. Aspin, and indicated any move would come after a break Mr. Aspin has said he wants to take from working.

Turkish restaurant bombed in Germany

DAMASCUS, Germany (R) — Unidentified attackers threw fire bombs into a Turkish restaurant in the German town of Darmstadt on Sunday, police said. No one was hurt in the attack, which occurred in the early hours of Sunday morning and caused considerable damage. A police statement said unidentified assailants broke a hole in the restaurant's glass door and threw a bottle filled with flammable liquid into the entry hall. Police found another burning bottle on the pavement outside. In a separate incident, attackers tried to set fire to a kebab stand. Again, police found bottles filled with flammable liquid but no damage was caused.

Israel, PLO try to unblock self-rule

OSLO (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and aides of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat began a fresh drive here to break the deadlock over launching Palestinian self-rule in Jericho and Gaza, officials said Sunday.

They met informally on Saturday and were meeting again Sunday in Oslo, where they first drew up their autonomy accord in secret four months ago, Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Egeland said without disclosing the site.

Formal talks were scheduled here for Monday. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said that in Oslo it would put forward compromise proposals for joint control of border crossing from the autonomous areas into Egypt and Jordan. It had previously demanded full responsibility.

PLO Executive Committee member Isshaq Ali said the Palestinians might also compromise on the size of the Jericho district in the occupied West Bank.

But Israel insisted it must have nothing less than full control over borders. "If external security is in the hands of Israel then I believe that the way will be paved for compromises in other domains," Israeli Immigrant Absorption Minister Yair Tsaaban said in occupied Jerusalem Sunday.

He described border control

as the "key issue." Mr. Egeland said the Oslo talks, which he was attending, were "aimed at preventing the failure of the next summit meeting" between Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat failed in Cairo last Sunday to iron out details for starting an Israeli army pullout by the Dec. 13 deadline, set by the Oslo accord which was eventually signed in Washington in September.

They agreed to return to Cairo in around 10 days, but Mr. Rabin told Israeli radio Sunday that he was checking developments in Oslo and elsewhere to determine if a second meeting would be "fruitful."

Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst, a mediator in the original Oslo talks, talked with Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin last week and agreed to arrange for new talks in the Norwegian capital to try to break the deadlock, Mr. Egeland said.

Norwegian envoys also made arrangements in Tunis, Paris and Tokyo, diplomats said.

The Israelis and the PLO team, led by close Arafat aide Yasser Abed Rabbo, arrived Saturday evening for meetings that continued Sunday, said Norwegian foreign ministry spokesman Ingvald Havnen.

He refused to disclose where they were meeting, or whether there had been progress.

Israeli news reports said Mr. Peres and his team would return home Sunday. Mr. Ishak, the PLO official in Tunis, said the Palestinian team was proposing joint control of the crossing points to Gaza and Jericho. He said the plan would put the points under Palestinian control but allow Israel to use electronic surveillance to monitor traffic.

"Let them use their computers and advanced technological equipment to monitor who is coming and who is going... but we will never allow them to stop us or our visitors from crossing," Mr. Ishak said.

Israeli Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein said the Israelis hope "the PLO will change its attitude."

"We were prepared to allow the Palestinians to participate in the border crossing. But their demands for total responsibility on external security are totally unacceptable," Mr. Rubinstein said.

The two sides appeared less intransigent on the size of Jericho. On Saturday, a PLO official said Palestinians would accept about 200 square kilometres, down from its original demand of 350 square kilometres. Israel has proposed an enclave of roughly 90 square kilometres, up from 25 square kilometres.

Israeli Housing Minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer said he expected the Oslo talks to yield some results by Monday morning.

He refused to disclose where they were meeting, or whether there had been progress.

Israeli planes attack Hizbollah

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes launched two raids on resistance targets in South Lebanon on Sunday after artillery duels rocked the area, security sources said.

Two planes fired at least 10 missiles at targets near the villages of Milita and Louwazeih in Iqlim Al Toufah, a ridge used by resistance fighters to launch attacks on Israel's self-styled "security zone" inside Lebanon, they said.

The sources said fighters fired anti-aircraft machineguns and missiles but none of the raiding jets was hit. Smoke billowed over the area as ambulances rushed to the scene of the attack. No further details were available.

The raid on Milita and Louwazeih came less than two hours after an air attack on nearby Jabal Safi mountain in Iqlim Al Toufah. The first raid caused no casualties, the sources said.

In Israel, the army spokesman's office confirmed the Jabal Safi attack. "Israel air force warplanes this afternoon attacked a post of the Hizbollah group in Jabal Safi," an army spokesman said.

"The pilots reported accurate hits on the target and all our planes returned safely to base. The post that was hit was used as a training base and a base for launching attacks," it said.

Thick columns of smoke could be seen rising from the targets.

A Hizbollah source in Sidon told AFP that surface-to-air missiles were fired at the planes. He did not mention any casualties among the Hizbollah forces.

Earlier a South Lebanon Army (SLA) spokesman said Hizbollah mounted two separate attacks against the SLA. Israel's proxy militia in occupied South Lebanon.

A Lebanese civilian was slightly hurt when SLA and Israeli artillery returned fire, police said.

The guerrillas shelled an SLA position in Rihan and later fired a rocket propelled grenade at a militia patrol near Sojud, the SLA said. Both communities are in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

PLO requests Jordan to delay reopening of banks in West Bank

By Wafa Amr
 Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) appealed to Jordan on Sunday to delay reopening Jordanian commercial banks in the West Bank until Palestinians begin implementing the Sept. 13 self-rule accord with Israel.

Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim told the Jordan Times he "expressed the PLO's wish to the Kingdom to refrain from undertaking any practical steps in implementing the Jordan-Israeli memo of understanding until the PLO and Israel agree on implementation of the self-rule accord."

Other PLO sources said Mr. Abdul Rahim contacted His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday and requested that Jordan delay the reopening of bank branches in the West Bank in order to contain any possible misunderstandings and avoid further deterioration of Jordan-PLO relations.

"Once the PLO agrees with Israel on implementation of the self-rule accord, the PLO will be ready to sign the Jordan-PLO draft economic pact,

because without it, Jordanian branches might face problems in operating in the West Bank," a Tunis-based PLO official said.

However, Jordanian officials said preparations for reopening bank branches were only awaiting the go-ahead from the Cabinet because the banking agreement was not linked to the signing of the Jordan-PLO accord.

The officials said statements made by Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Said Nabulsi on Saturday in which he said he asked Jordanian banks to prepare for reopening of branches once the Cabinet approved the CBJ arrangements still stood.

"It is up to the government now to decide when commercial banks can open branches in the West Bank in line with the memo of understanding we reached with Israel last month," a Jordanian official said.

Jordan and Israel signed a memo of understanding on Dec. 1 within the framework of Middle East peace talks in which Israel would allow an early reopening of Jordanian banks in the occupied West Bank. Dr. Nabulsi said the CBJ would oversee the operations and licensing of these branches. He said eight banks with 31 branches operated in the West Bank until

1967. Only one Jordanian bank, the Cairo-Amman Bank, operated in the West Bank since 1987, but due to severe limitations on its operations, it acted as a cash office, officials said.

Officials said the banking agreement would be submitted to the Cabinet for ratification on Tuesday. If ratified, the CBJ would have the green light to issue permits for commercial banks to reopen branches in the West Bank.

Bankers said Dr. Nabulsi told directors of Jordanian banks Thursday to prepare for reopening their branches because Jordan was ready to implement the banking agreement in the next few days. They said he asked them to submit applications to the CBJ to acquire the necessary permits and licenses.

Bankers need written approvals from the Bank of Israel to reopen their branches in the West Bank. They said in line with the banking agreement, Israel would allow the reopening of one branch for each bank during the first six months, whereas new branches and banks would be allowed at a later stage.

Despite the absence of a PLO-Jordan economic pact, some bankers and economists said they doubted the actual implementation of the banking accord before an understanding with the PLO was reached. Some expected practical obstacles in reopening branches in the West Bank, and probably financial losses if Palestinians chose to stop using the Jordanian

dinar and use the American dollar instead. The initialing of the banking agreement between Jordan and Israel angered many PLO officials and some Palestinians inside the occupied territories, who felt the agreement was reached behind their backs, ignoring Palestinian authority in the West Bank.

PLO-Jordan relations have been cool since the announcement of the PLO-Israel accord last September. Relations deteriorated last month during PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's visit to Jordan when he evaded signing the economic agreement despite statements to the contrary before his arrival to the Kingdom.

Jordan, eager to have the economic pact signed, felt let down by the PLO chairman. A Jordanian official said the Kingdom issued a warning to the PLO that if the economic pact was not signed before Dec. 20 each side would go its own separate way. He said Jordan could not wait forever until the PLO chairman decided to ratify the economic agreement, which he chose to delay without proper explanations to the Jordanian government.

The draft agreement stipulates that the two sides agree on establishing a permanent joint monetary and banking committee to agree on monetary and banking policies during the Palestinian interim period. This committee would be

(Continued on page 10)

Cabinet, House to discuss peace process Dec. 29

By Ayman Al Safadi
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government and the Lower House of Parliament will hold a "general discussion" on Dec. 29 of the Kingdom's policy vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli peace process and the progress it has achieved.

The discussion, which will take place in a special session of the House, was requested by 18 lawmakers after many deputies described as common knowledge a policy briefing given by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan last week.

It was not yet clear whether the discussion would be in camera; but Speaker Taber Al Masri said Sunday he would ask the government that the meeting does not take place behind closed doors. The government can request that the discussion be held in a secret

meeting.

During its regular session on Sunday, the House entrusted its Foreign Affairs Committee with drafting a statement in support of Palestinian expellees who returned to the occupied territories from South Lebanon Dec. 15.

Acting Prime Minister Ma'n Abu Nowar, who supported the House decision to issue the statement against what he called Israeli crimes against humanity, rejected accusations by Islamist Deputy Hamzeh Mansour that Jordan Television did not give enough coverage of the expellees' ordeal.

In a question to the minister of information submitted during the term of the 11th Parliament, Mr. Mansour asked why

'Ballet alien to Arabs'

AMMAN — Ballet dancing is a foreign art and the word ballet itself is not an Arabic word, Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Abdul Aziz Jaber told lawmakers Sunday.

He said the art violates Arab and Muslim values, and the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) of the Ministry of Culture should reconsider its decision to establish a ballet dancing group.

Former Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra had said that the RCC founded the children's ballet dancing group to encourage pantomime and sophisticated arts.

In response to a question submitted by Mr. Jaber during the term of the 11th Parliament in May 1993, Dr. Samra said the group was

acting in a way that did not violate "our values, traditions, and faith."

But Mr. Jaber insisted that ballet dancing "is part of the Western tutelage (of the Arab World)."

After reading the Lower House of Parliament a lengthy encyclopedic definition of ballet dancing, Mr. Jaber concluded that the art was a stranger to Arab and Muslim culture.

But it is natural these days that things are not called by their names, said Mr. Jaber. "Alcohol is being called spirits, licentiousness is being called art and the abandonment of rights is being called peace," he said, asking deputies "if arts have any relation to our national heritage."

Mubarak sends Baz on urgent Libya mission

CAIRO (Agencies) — A senior adviser to President Hosni Mubarak left unexpectedly for Libya Sunday following the disappearance of a Libyan diplomat in Cairo and fears he may have been kidnapped by the Libyan government.

The trip by Osama Al Baz came after both the United Nations and the United States expressed concern about the case of Mansour Kikhaia, a former Libyan foreign minister who disappeared from a Cairo hotel Dec. 10.

Libyan dissidents in Cairo have said they believed Mr. Kikhaia, head of an opposition alliance, was abducted to Libya. His wife, Baha Omary Kikhaia, said in Paris she had been called by one of Mr. Kikhaia's brothers in Libya who said her husband was well and would contact his family soon.

Dr. Baz made no comment on the purpose of his trip.

Also Sunday, Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid, who is a veteran Egyptian diplomat, met with a former Libyan ambassador to the league, Abdul Salam Al Treiki, the state run Middle East News Agency reported.

The Egyptian government kept an embarrassed silence for more than a week on Mr. Kikhaia's disappearance.

Officials declined to comment on the Baz trip, which was not officially announced. Egypt has acted as a mediator to try to resolve Libya's dispute with the West over the 1986 Lockerbie airliner bombing.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has stepped up mass rallies to show popular defiance of U.N. sanctions and the Libyan people's support for their leader, state television reported on Sunday.

Since the United Nations tightened its sanctions against Libya on Dec. 1, Colonel Qadhafi has held more rallies in a bid to "show the world how the people are united around their leader," Libyan Television said.

In a series of speeches Col. Qadhafi has hammered home the message: "For two years we held out an olive branch, we accepted mediation, we told them we wanted peace, but the arrogant ones responded by stepping up the sanctions."

Fresh evidence, page 10.

Algeria to hold national conference in January

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The mandate of Algeria's ruling High State Council (HCE) has been extended by a month, officials said Sunday, making way for a national conference to try to resolve the country's political crisis.

The High Security Council (HCS), the body which set up the HCE last year, said in a statement that the HCE's mandate would be extended until the end of January, and the national conference will take place 25-26.

The conference will thrash out a platform with opposition groups to cover a three-year transition period ahead of presidential and legislative elections, the statement said.

The extension of the HCE mandate came the day after a request to that effect by the Commission for National Dialogue (CDN), which was formed to seek a solution to the country's political crisis. The conference is intended to draft a plan for a transitional

government that would guide Algeria towards presidential and parliamentary elections within two or three years.

Efforts to hold the conference have bogged down, mainly because of disputes over the participation of Muslim fundamentalists. The government's current stance is that individual fundamentalists could participate, but without any formal role for the main fundamentalist party, the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

The front has been banned since April 1992, three months after cancellation of parliamentary elections it was expected to sweep. The crackdown prompted retaliation by militants, and more than 2,000 people have been killed in the political violence.

In the latest unrest, police Sunday reported that eight militants were killed by security forces Friday and Saturday, while four civilians were killed by suspected extremists.

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Libyans feel little effect from embargo

By Lamia Radi
Agence France Presse

TRIPOLI — The U.N. sanctions on Libya have had little impact on peoples' daily lives. "We have everything in Libya," Salah Abdul Rahman, a merchant in the Al Rashid market, said as he ushered a visitor into his shop stacked with imported items from Taiwanese radios to American shampoos.

The relatively few Libyans who travel were the only ones to complain openly of the sanctions, saying the ban on international flights forced them to take long road trips via Tunisia and Egypt.

Diplomats agreed that sanctions first imposed in April last year to punish Tripoli over its alleged involvement in the Lockerbie bombing have had little impact other than to increase prices and force the government to cut subsidies a little.

They said the people here were fatalistic and would likely take matters in stride. "We don't need anyone and we're happy with what we produce locally," Mr. Abdul Rahman said, referring to the possibility of even stiffer sanctions.

A freeze on assets abroad and a ban on oil-related equipment took effect Dec. 1 after Tripoli continued its refusal to surrender two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people.

They added to diplomatic sanctions and a ban on air traffic as well as weapons purchases that took effect on April 15, 1992.

Mr. Abdul Rahman's

bookkeeper Osman Fares said: "If the Western countries think they're going to make us bend to their will by banning the sale of our oil, we will cover our oil wells and close them, as the guide says."

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi has pledged to set fire to the oil wells if sanctions target Libya's main revenue earner.

Foreign workers complained more about the sanctions.

On the square of Bourguiba Mosque in the heart of Tripoli, Habbu Bahaeddine waited for the driver to finish loading bags and boxes onto the minibus taking him to his native village in northern Sudan.

He could once fly to an airport in northern Sudan and then travel by road to his village in less than a day, but now the trip took 10 days over rugged terrain, he said.

Al Jubail Ibrahim, a store salesman from the central Sudanese region of Kordofan, said the effects of the embargo are "beginning to be felt."

Many of his countrymen who work in the trade and construction industry have returned home, he said.

In hotels, where many of the employees are Moroccan, a waiter said he has not received his wages for nine months and that he stayed on in Libya only in the hope he could recover his back pay.

A Libyan official replied: "This is absolutely false. No reasonable person would wait so long."

But many hotel workers said they were motivated by the money they could make through black market currency dealing.

Cleric behind attacks — prosecutor

CAIRO (AFP) — The chief prosecutor of Egypt's high state security court on Saturday accused a blind, exiled Muslim cleric, Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, of instigating a wave of fundamentalist violence in Egypt.

As the trial resumed here of Sheikh Abdul Rahman, spiritual leader of the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah group, prosecutor Abdul Samih Sharafeddin said the cleric was "the brains behind all the recent terrorist operations and acts of violence, which are still going on."

The cleric, 55, has been held in the United States since July 2 for alleged involvement in the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York on 26.

Forty-seven others, including nine still in hiding, were also on trial in Cairo for organising a violent demonstration in April 1989, in Fayoum, 100 kilometres south of Cairo, during which a policeman was wounded.

All the accused were acquitted at a first trial in 1990, but a new trial opened on April 6 this year.

The chief prosecutor accused Sheikh Abdul Rahman and his followers of plotting to topple Egypt's secular government and attacking tourists to undermine the country's economy.

The cleric was also accused of issuing a fatwa authorising the theft of Coptic Christians' property.

Muslim militants have been waging a violent campaign against the authorities since March 1992.

Gulf Arabs seek stronger force amid border feuds

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The leaders of six Gulf Arab states meet in Riyadh this week for their annual summit, at which they will discuss bolstering their joint military force, united by fears about their giant neighbours Iran and Iraq.

However, the heads of state of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) also have their own border disputes, which have snowballed into brief armed confrontations at least twice since they created their political, economic and defence bloc in May 1981.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

The three-day meeting in Riyadh, opening Monday, would cover a host of political, military, economic and environmental issues, according to official GCC media.

GCC foreign ministers finalised the agenda of the summit on Saturday.

"The GCC leaders will discuss recommendations from their defence ministers to beef up their military capabilities by increasing the number of troops in the Peninsula Shield force, so it will be able to defend the sovereignty of member states," the official Qatari News Agency said late Friday.

The Peninsula Shield, drawn from the six members, was set up around eight years ago but it has remained a token force, not exceeding 10,000 soldiers. It has been based at Hafir Al Batin in northern Saudi Arabia and frequently conducts joint exercises.

The force, set up as a symbol of military coordination among member states, made no move when Iraqi troops stormed into Kuwait in August 1990.

At talks in Abu Dhabi last month, GCC defence ministers agreed to bolster the Peninsula Shield as an alternative to a proposal by Sultan Qaboos Ben Said of Oman to create a 100,000-strong joint Gulf army.

Western diplomats said they believed the GCC states would press ahead with boosting that force, given their persistent fears of Iran and Iraq.

"We all know the presence of Western naval forces in the Gulf is giving a feeling of security to the GCC countries. But such a presence is not expected to last for ever and member states have to rely on themselves to guarantee their safety," one diplomat said.

"I believe bolstering their capability will remain their top priority because of Iraq's repeated threats and their suspicions about Iran's intentions, especially after its island dispute with the UAE and attempts to acquire weapons of mass destruction."

Before the invasion of Kuwait, GCC states had around 160,000 troops and more than 300 aircraft. But a recruitment drive and multi-billion-dollar arms deals are expected to more than double their power, according to experts.

The GCC leaders are expected to repeat appeals to Iraq to accept the U.N.-brokered border agreement with Kuwait, and to Iran to relinquish three strategic Gulf islands claimed by the UAE.

But they are expected to shun their own border problems to prevent the possible collapse of their talks.

"The border disputes within the GCC are not on the agenda of the summit and no member has requested the discussion of such issues as they remain within the bilateral framework," Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Suleiman Al Shahin told the official UAE news agency WAM on Friday.

"The best solution to the border problems in the GCC should be found through a spirit of brotherhood, even if the negotiations about them continue for 1,000 years, provided there are no threats, pressure or hostile intentions," he said.

Yemen to probe halting of premier's motorcade

SANAA (R) — Yemeni Prime Minister Idris al-Ahmar said his government has set up a Defence Ministry team to investigate the stopping of his motorcade by armed military police outside the capital Sanaa.

The official media reported that Mr. Al-Ahmar, from southern Yemen, had ordered the investigation on Saturday after the police stopped him on Friday night as he tried to enter the capital.

A national reconciliation committee, convened on Saturday by political leaders and parties to discuss Yemen's six-month-old political crisis, condemned as "irresponsible" the police action.

It praised Mr. Al-Ahmar for defusing the confrontation and called on the government to take "strict measures" to avoid any repetition of such incidents.

The Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), which ruled the south before unification in 1990, said Mr. Al-Ahmar was allowed to drive into Sanaa after he used his car phone to call several political leaders in the capital but that three military jeeps followed his motorcade into Sanaa's city centre.

It was not immediately clear why he was stopped or who ordered the military police to let him proceed.

The YSP said the military police were under the command of Colonel Muhammad Yahya Al-Hawari, who is from the same northern tribe and village as President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The YSP and the General People's Congress (GPC), which ruled the north, united the country in May 1990 and held multi-party elections in April this year but differences later emerged paralysing the government.

The political crisis has sparked reports of political killings, unlawful armed roadblocks and troops movements had led to fears that Yemen might split again.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Court extends detention of six Jewish militants

TEL AVIV (AP) — A magistrate's court judge on Saturday extended the detention of four Israelis and two Americans suspected of conspiring to carry out attacks against Palestinians, Israel Radio said. The arrests of the six earlier this week foiled the establishment of a new "Jewish underground," the radio said. A group by that name had carried out the bombing and shooting attacks against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank in the early 1980s. The six, including an American businessman, are suspected of hoarding guns and conducting weapons training, the radio said. Five suspects were ordered held for two more days. A sixth detainee, a Jewish seminary student from Jerusalem who recently immigrated from the United States, was ordered held for five days.

Oman grants Iranian envoy top honour

MUSCAT (R) — Sultan Qaboos Ben Said of Oman Saturday granted the Iranian ambassador to Muscat the country's top medal to be given to a diplomat. The Oman News Agency said the sultan granted Ambassador Mohammad Arab a first degree Al No'man Medal for "his leading role in deepening and boosting ties of cooperation between the two countries in different fields." Oman and Iran jointly control the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the only entrance to the Gulf. They have traditionally had close political and economic ties despite Iran's often tense relationship with some of Oman's Gulf Arab and other allies.

Wives of missing Iraqis may remarry

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi women whose husbands went missing during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war will be able to remarry, under a legal amendment approved by the Iraqi parliament, officials said Saturday. The amendment, yet to be endorsed by President Saddam Hussein, applies to Iraqi women whose husbands have been missing for at least four years. Saddam Al Takriti, chairman of the parliament's religious and social affairs committee, said the measure was aimed at "ending personal tragedies experienced not only by wives but by families." Iraqi newspapers reported. During the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war thousands of Iraqis disappeared, but no precise official figures are available.

Rasmussen lays wreath at Israeli memorial

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen began his official visit to Israel Sunday by laying a wreath at the Holocaust memorial to the victims of the Nazi's final solution. The premier was later due to see the walled Old City of Jerusalem ahead of talks Monday with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Mr. Rasmussen was also scheduled to meet right-wing Likud Party opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu followed by President Ezer Weizman on Monday. He visits the northern town of Metulla on the border with Lebanon and the holy sites on the shore of the Sea of Galilee on Tuesday. Mr. Rasmussen goes on Wednesday to Jericho, which is to be granted autonomy under the Sept. 13 autonomy agreement, and sees leading Palestinians from the occupied territories in Jerusalem the same day before flying home.

4 Indians killed, 5 hurt in Bahrain

MANAMA (R) — Four Indian nationals were killed and five were injured in Bahrain when 10-storey-high scaffolding on which they were working collapsed, the Indian embassy said on Sunday. Local newspapers said a Bangladeshi worker was also injured in the incident at a construction site on Saturday. An embassy spokesman told Reuters that two of the injured workers were in a "serious condition" while the other three were in a stable condition. The next of kin have been notified. According to the embassy, more than 110,000 Indians work in Bahrain.

Former Afghan premier living on hand-outs

LONDON (AFP) — A former prime minister of Soviet-occupied Afghanistan, Ali Kheismand, is living on social security handouts as a refugee in Britain, the Independent on Sunday reported. "The former prime minister of Afghanistan, whose government Britain never recognised and spent millions of pounds trying to overthrow is living in north London on social security," the report said. The paper said Mr. Kheismand, 58, had first applied for asylum in France but had been turned down. He then decided to seek asylum and refugee status in Britain because he would have had "no chance to live safely in Afghanistan." Mr. Kheismand, who arrived in Britain a year ago, was quoted as saying the British authorities had been "very good to me." "As a refugee, I was given a lump sum of money and I now have a weekly allowance."

Iranian plant to start production in 1994

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian chemical plant being built with Chinese help will start production in 1994, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. IRNA put the cost of the processing plant, in Iran's west Azerbaijan province, at \$20 million in hard currency and 25 billion rials (\$14.16 million) and said it would produce 3,000 tonnes of melamine powder and 12,000 tonnes of ammonium sulphate. The plant was expected to save Iran \$5 million a year, it added in a report late on Saturday. A Chinese expert who visited the plant Saturday called for increased cooperation between Iran and China and said he expected trade between the two states to reach a total of \$400 million a year.

Kurds block German motorways

KASSEL, Germany (AFP) — More than 2,000 Kurds, demonstrated near here Saturday, blocking access to motorways and chanting slogans in support of an independent homeland and the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), witnesses said. The PKK and groups linked to it were banned in November by Interior Minister Manfred Kanther after a series of attacks across Germany on Turkish offices and diplomatic buildings. The demonstrators, from across Germany, blocked access to motorways from Kassel and the neighbouring city of Goettingen.

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- ENJOY HIGH ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS, LIAISON AND FOLLOW UP.
- KNOWLEDGE TO OPERATE OFFICE MACHINES, SUCH AS TYPEWRITERS.
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FAX 672823 AMMAN.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ... Les Aventuriers de l'Espace
18:00 ... La Systeme Dimension
18:30 ... News in French
19:00 ... The weekly sport magazine
19:30 ... News in Hebrew
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Delta
21:00 ... The House of Elliott
22:00 ... News in English
22:30 ... The Quality
23:10 ... The Sleeping Beauty

PRAYER TIMES

05:02 ... Fajr
06:25 ... (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:03 ... Dhur
14:16 ... 'Asr
16:39 ... Maghreb
18:01 ... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifflah, Tel. 610740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661377
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Assiout Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 641195
The Latter-day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. Amman 6 / 17
Aqaba 12 / 22
Dahesh 4 / 19
Jordan Valley 11 / 21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 17, Aqaba 21 Humidity readings: Amman 39 per cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mohammad Al Ghoul 790730
Dr. Jamal Al Ja'ani 796460
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tufan 620115
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala 756046
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 678355
Najoud pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 646945
Yacoub pharmacy 646945
Shoukri pharmacy 637660
Najoud pharmacy 625672
Najoud pharmacy 947632

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Al Salam pharmacy 646945
Yacoub pharmacy 646945
Shoukri pharmacy 637660
Najoud pharmacy 625672
Najoud pharmacy 947632

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 891229
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 638989
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Central Amman Telephone 010230
Overseas Calls 010230
Reprints 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 773111
Water Authority 680101
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldun Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malinas, J. Amman 661174
Palestine, Shamsat 661174
Shamsat Hospital 661174
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musader Hospital 667271/7
The Islamic, Abdali 661174
Al-Abi, Abdali 777013
Italian, Al-Mudhreen 777013
Al-Bashir, J. Asirafah 775111/26
Aray, Marza 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6224050
Amal Hospital 674155

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldun Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malinas, J. Amman 661174
Palestine, Shamsat 661174
Shamsat Hospital 661174
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Aray, Marza 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6224050
Amal Hospital 674155

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:10 ... Sanaa (RJ)
08:25 ... Damascus (RJ)
09:40 ... Jordan (RJ)
09:50 ... Beirut (RJ)
09:55 ... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 ... Beirut (RJ)
10:20 ... New Delhi (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 ... Beirut (RJ)
11:00 ... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:05 ... London (RJ)
12:15 ... Frankfurt (RJ)
12:45 ... Cairo (RJ)
13:30 ... Bahrain (RJ)
20:15 ... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:30 ... Damascus (RJ)
21:30 ... Abu Dhabi Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 ... Cairo (MS)
10:45 ... Khartoum (SD)
12:25 ... Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
18:05 ... Dubai (EM)
01:10 ... Amsterdam (KL)

HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

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Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 720/400
Banana 600
Banana (Makassar) 620
Beau 600 / 500
Cabbage 100 / 30
Carrot 240 / 100
Cauliflower 180 / 100
Cucumber 200 / 100
Cucumber (large) 180 / 100
Cucumber (small) 320 / 240
Eggplant 160 / 70
Gardic 900/600
Lemon 150 / 100
Lemon (large) 150 / 100
Marrow (large) 320 / 220
Marrow (small) 700/500
Orange 300 / 300
Onion (green) 400 / 300
Onion (red) 250 / 180
Pepper (hot) 250 / 180
Pepper (sweet) 250 / 180
Radish 240 / 120
Tomato 130 / 100
Spinach 180 / 120

هكذا صحت اتصل

Queen Noor to launch UNICEF publications

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein will Wednesday (Dec. 22) launch the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) publications: The "1994 State of the World's Children Report" and the "Progress of Nations."

The launch by Queen Noor, which will take place at the Royal Cultural Centre at 11:00 a.m., will be followed by a press conference, during which Planning Minister Ziad Fariz and UNICEF representative in Jordan Victoria Rialp, will discuss the report with media representatives, according to a UNICEF spokesperson.

The State of the World's Children Report looks at the progress achieved in the last decade in the areas of child survival, health education and nutrition. However, the report warns of the consequences of failure to address the worst aspects of poverty, which, linked with rapid population growth and environmental deterioration, could undermine the recent progress and future prospects, the UNICEF spokesperson said.

The report calls for serious action at all levels to meet the basic needs of the poorest quarter of the world's population.

The "Progress of Nations," which has been issued for the first time documents the countries performance, in education, health, nutrition, family planning and status of women. The report lauds Jordan's achievements for children, noting in particular Jordan's health and nutrition achievements, according to the spokesperson.

NGOs recommend series of measures to implement child rights convention

By Sa'eda Kilani

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) Sunday stressed that the convention on the rights of the child did not contradict the Islamic League (sharia) and called on the Muslim countries who have earlier showed reservations on certain articles in the charter to endorse it.

At the end of a two-day meeting on methods to implement the convention on the rights of the child, a group of human rights experts and NGOs' representatives, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), agreed to adopt the following recommendations:

On the information level, NGOs' plans of action should focus on public mobilisation and providing funding resources for services and development purposes.

On the communication level, NGOs should adopt the Arab plan of action on ways to implement the convention on the rights of the child to promote it and incorporate it into their programmes.

NGOs were called upon to chart a plan order to raise awareness of the Arab plan on the convention of the rights of the child and universalise it.

Participants also issued an appeal to all governments and concerned authorities, including international organisations, to lift the embargo on Iraq and improve the living conditions of Iraqi children.

In a separate statement, participants also appealed for improved conditions for the Palestinian, Somali and Sudanese children.

Recommendations also stressed that the convention is in line with Sharia and that there was no justification for Arab and Muslim countries to reject it. (All Arab countries except four have ratified the convention).

The fourth recommendation tackled the most controversial issue during the two-day conference — coordination among NGOs in supporting and implementing the convention. It called on NGOs to form a committee for more coordination among themselves on the one hand and between NGO and governments on the other to enhance the status of children. The participants also called on UNICEF to participate as a main partner while the committee will preserve its independence.

The role of the committee will focus on raising public awareness of the convention as well as organising training courses on the rights of the child as well as following up on their implementation.

The participants also called on UNICEF to organise similar meetings annually, to form a committee to follow-up on the recommendations, to give particular attention to handicapped and to activate the Arab Council on Childhood and Development.

Road quality under scrutiny

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Safety on the roads of Jordan is the theme of a two-day seminar opening at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Monday.

Organised by the Jordan Roads Society (JRS), the meeting will discuss road conditions which are among the frequent causes for road accidents, according to Mr. Nizar Al Abidi.

Mr. Abidi, who will act as rapporteur to the seminar, told the Jordan Times that a total of 338 people were killed and more than 10,000 others injured as a result of road accidents in the Kingdom in 1992.

He said 13 working papers to be reviewed at the seminar would examine faulty and improperly constructed roads in addition to other elements that contribute to a large number of accidents every year.

"Despite the fact that most of the road accidents are a direct cause of a human error, we notice that motorists frequently violate traffic regulations and end up with accidents in certain areas."

"This clearly indicates that the roads are sometimes inadequate and full of pits that contribute to the recurrence of accidents," added Mr. Abidi.

Admitting that motorists were in need of refresher driving courses, Mr. Abidi said that road maintenance was no less important than training the motorists and spreading awareness among the public concerning safety on the roads.

Mr. Abidi said that the working papers, to be reviewed by some 140 participants from 25 private and public institutions and voluntary societies, have been prepared by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the Amman Municipality, the Public Security Department, Mutta University, Irbid Municipality, the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents as well as the Jordan Roads Society.

Princess Basma opens health centre in Aqaba

AQABA (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday inaugurated a health centre here serving 25,000 residents of the Rimal and Ghubieh districts of the port city.

Accompanied by Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas, the princess toured the different sections of the centre which offers mother and child care, dentistry and general clinic services as well as vaccinations, laboratory tests and pharmacy services.

Special units have been assigned for doctors giving local residents advice and guidance on family planning and health education.

In a brief speech at the ceremony, Dr. Malhas reviewed health ministry efforts to provide primary health care services and medical treatment.

To date, the ministry has created 599 health centres in various regions, added Dr. Malhas.

Health ministry sources said that Aqaba has a military hospital which also provides medical services to civilians in addition to military personnel.

According to Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Shobaki, the health department director in Aqaba district, two other health centres are contemplated for the Shalleh and the old district of Aqaba to cater to the city's growing demand on health services.

The Princess toured the department of health and its laboratories and warehouses, visited the Aqaba Region Authority and later chaired a meeting of the local Aqaba Social Services Centre, which is operated by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), to review its programmes and its achievements during 1993 as well as plans for 1994.

The meeting endorsed a plan for developing the QAF centres operating in Qweirah and other districts in southern Jordan.

Jordan to apply for entry to GATT

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan, liberalising its economy in line with IMF-agreed economic reforms, is planning to apply for membership of the GATT, the world's trade regulator, officials and diplomats said Sunday.

Minister of state for foreign affairs Talal Al Hassan met several Western envoys over the past week to enlist their countries' support for Jordan's application to join the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"Through GATT, Jordan is seeking to expand its area of international economic cooperation in a manner that supports its national economic programmes," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Mr. Hassan as telling the envoys.

Jordanian newspapers have in general welcomed the GATT trade deal reached Thursday. But some fear it might have a negative impact on the Kingdom's fragile economy and trade.

Amman hopes membership will help its integration in the new world trade order launched by the GATT deal.

But it has to embark on quick reforms to reduce its highly-protected local industries, reform its tax system, improve the investment climate and diversify its economic base.

Any application to join GATT requires lengthy procedures and negotiations during which applicant countries try to secure the most favourable terms that can best cater to their industrial and commercial interests as well as internal and external conditions.

Mr. Hassan discussed Jordan's application with the ambassador of the European Community (EC) countries, the head of the EC delegation as well as the ambassador of the United States, Canada, Japan, Austria, Turkey, Switzerland, Australia, South Korea, Sweden, Indonesia, Egypt, Brazil, Chile India and Pakistan.

Princess Alia visits Wadi Mousa region

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein Sunday donated a bus to the Petra Voluntary Society for the care of the handicapped children in the Wadi Mousa and the Petra region in southern Jordan.

The Princess, who is honorary chairperson of the Jordanian Society for the Development and Training of Rural Women, presented the bus to the Wadi Mousa and Petra society member Niaz Shaaban who voiced his society's appreciation to the princess for her humanitarian gesture.

"The bus will no doubt enable the society to overcome the problem of transporting the handicapped children from and to the rehabilitation centre on a daily basis," said Mr. Shaaban.

Mr. Shaaban said the society's centre currently treats 35 handicapped children aged between eight and 15 years, most of whom suffer from physical disability and come to the centre from distant areas.

The princess said in a statement to the Jordan news agency, Petra, that she was impressed by the level of cooperation among the residents of the Wadi Mousa and Petra region to offer voluntary services. She lauded the efforts of the local voluntary society for its care for the handicapped children, calling on concerned authorities and the public to extend all possible help to that society and other similar societies caring for handicapped children.

Princess Alia urged the Jordanian public to intensify their efforts towards promoting humanitarian initiatives and to bring about solidarity among the members of the Jordanian family.

According to Mr. Shaaban, his society was making plans to raise the level of its services for the handicapped children.

Founded in 1991, the society has aimed at providing rehabilitation services to the handicapped children of Wadi Mousa and Petra in cooperation with the other voluntary societies, noted Mr. Shaaban.

He said that the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has provided two women teachers to give care to the children at the centre and financed the construction and furnishing of the centre.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition on the 100th anniversary of the death of French novelist Guy De Maupassant at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Iraqi books at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition artist Hana Al Dawsari at the Student Affairs Deanship at the University of Yarmouk in Irbid.
- ★ Art exhibition by artists Ibrahim Al Abdull and Abdul Hussein Twaji at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Al Sabounji at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by a number of Jordanian artists entitled "The Sixth Exhibition — Samples From The Contemporary Jordanian Art 93" at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists Khalid Hijazi, Mohammad Al Ameri, and Adnan Al Sharif at Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Hani Al Hourani entitled "Impressions from Wadi Al Wala" at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Samia Zorou at the Open Studio "Al Marsam Al Mafrik" Jahel Amman, 2nd Circle (9:00-12:00 and 15:00-17:00 all days except Fridays).
- ★ Exhibition "Prints and Drawings of Fakhreissa Zeid" (1915-1991) until the 15th of January '94 at Darat al Funun of the Abdal Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "Permanence" Exhibition. (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by a number of Iraqi artists at La Casa Art Gallery (between the 5th and 6th Circles).

CHRISTMAS BAZAARS

- ★ Christmas bazaar at Al Nukhlah Exhibition Hall, University Road (Tel. 637304, 684257).
- ★ Christmas bazaar at the Orthodox Club in Abdoun.
- ★ Christmas bazaar at the Amman International Auto Exhibition/Airport Road.
- ★ Christmas bazaar by Jordan River Designs at Regency Palace Hotel (10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.) (Tel. 656872).

FILM & DRAMAS

- ★ Film in French entitled "Merci La Vie" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Short film in French entitled "Onde De Choc" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Romanian film entitled "Nemuritori," with English subtitles, at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 pm.
- ★ Drama in Arabic entitled "Pages of Blood" at the Drama Theatre of the University of Yarmouk (12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m.).
- ★ Drama in Arabic entitled "Girl At the Age of Marriage" at the Drama Theatre of the University of Yarmouk at 4:30 p.m.

Arab fund, JEA discuss financing Aqaba thermal power station

AMMAN (Petra) — A team representing the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) has opened talks at the Ministry of Planning and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) on Jordan's request for a loan to finance the second phase of the Aqaba thermal power station.

According to JEA's planning department director, Mohammad Azzam, the project entails installing two thermal power generating units each with a 130 megawatt capacity.

"Should the negotiations succeed a tender will be floated in Jordan by the end of 1994 and the project will be operational by the middle of 1997," said Dr. Azzam.

He said that the project was needed to boost electric power generation in the Aqaba region, which has been witnessing increasing industrial and economic activities in the past two years and is anticipated to have additional activities in the coming years.

The AFESD team is negotiating terms of the loan agreement, for financing the project which falls within the JEA's 1993-1997 development scheme, added Mr. Azzam.

He noted the Ministry of Planning was undertaking the task of negotiating with a number of countries and international funds to secure the additional funds for this vital project.

Seminars to highlight patterns of healthy life, environment

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day seminar on patterns of healthy life will start in Amman Monday. The seminar, organised by the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation (WHO), will be attended by media representatives from the private and public sectors, aims at orienting journalists and information services personnel on sound and healthy practices to be adopted by individuals in their daily and social life.

According to a health ministry statement, participants will focus on health issues directly linked to behaviour, habits related to nutrition, the AIDS disease, smoking and communicable diseases in Jordan and other parts of the world.

The statement added that discussions would deal with the role of media in spreading awareness and guiding members of the public in changing health malpractices.

Also on the agenda, are case studies of health matters which are normally covered by the media.

Also opening Monday, in Amman is a regional seminar on assessing the adverse consequences on the environment resulting from water projects.

Organised by the Department of the Environment, the seminar will be opened by Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Minister Ahmad Aqileh. The discussions will cover a wider range of topics contained in working papers dealing with social, economic and cultural impacts of water projects, according to Department of Environment Director Saleh Al Sharee.

He said that the three-day seminar came at a time when the environment in Jordan was facing major challenges.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Cart before the horse?

THE DECISION of four Arab countries to host multilateral peace talks with Israel is a trump card that should not have been used without some quid pro quo from the Rabin government. Yet those countries decided to host these negotiations at a time when the peace process was practically at a standstill on all the fronts. No wonder Jordan announced its willingness to take part in these parleys with considerable reservation after having itself rejected to host any of them at this early stage in the peace process. Amman views, and rightly so, holding multilateral peace negotiations with Israel in an Arab capital as "premature normalisation." It would have been an infinitely better negotiation tactic to delay showering Israel with one concession after the other until it demonstrates a more positive stance on all the tracks affecting the PLO, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

With the prospects for the much celebrated PLO-Israel peace accord achieving real results on the ground apparently diminishing, it is simply counterproductive to accelerate the normalisation process at this very time. What applies to the Palestinian track appears to apply also on the other Arab tracks, especially the Syrian and Lebanese. So why yield to Israeli pressures and accept to convene the arms talks in Qatar, the water resources in Oman, the economic development talks in Morocco and the refugees in Egypt? By not boycotting the projected multilateral talks but expressing strong reservations about their Arab venues, Jordan is taking a middle course that benefits its refusal to host any such talks until "concrete progress is made." What possible inducements are left to lure the Rabin government into meaningful bilateral peace talks if the Arab side continues to reward the Israeli side before solid progress is attained on all the fronts? That is why neither Morocco nor Tunis should entertain establishing any form of relations with Israel, especially diplomatic ones, until there is discernable movement in the peace process. With Rabin's bottom line in his negotiations with all the Arab parties appearing way below their expectations the prospects for peace in the region do not look very bright. If, for example, Rabin continues to contend that the Jordan River is his country's security border come what may or keeps on insisting that full withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights would jeopardise its security, then he appears to still cling to outmoded security criteria based on territory and military superiority rather than genuine peace that all future generations can live with. As long as this security doctrine preoccupies the various Israeli governments, then the Arab side must refrain from "normalising" relations with Israel in a precipitous and hazardous manner.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Sunday criticised the United States for its double standard policies in its relations with other nations. Washington was ready to go to war against North Korea for freezing its commitments to the international agreement on the proliferation of nuclear arms and stopped aid to Pakistan after accusing that country of preparing to manufacture the "Islamic" atomic bomb, said Tareq Masarweh. The writer said that one can not forget that it was Washington that stood behind the war against Iraq and behind the U.N. resolutions to destroy Iraq's nuclear capabilities. But at the same time, it is Washington which is now opposing a U.N. General Assembly resolution calling on Israel to join and to sign the non-proliferation treaty though the U.S. realises that Israel possesses more than 200 nuclear warheads, the writer pointed out.

MOHAMMAD KAWASH a columnist in Al Dustour daily said he believed that the PLO-Israeli negotiations would be halted since the two sides have reached the point of no return. The Arabs, said the writer, are definitely in for yet another round of tedious and complicated negotiations where Israel would display its ill intentions and its intransigence with regard to the implementation of U.N. resolutions and the Oslo deal with the PLO. The only way to break the backbone of the Israelis in this matter, said the writer, is an escalation of the military action through the intifada where the Palestinians can exercise pressure on the Israelis to respond to the just Arab demands. Not only are the Israelis showing their determination to hold on to the occupied Arab lands, they are also trying desperately to link the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with the Israeli economy and take them away from the neighbouring Arab countries, especially Jordan, said the writer. He said that by refusing to recognise the rights of the PLO to control the crossing points along the border with Jordan and Egypt, Israel is placing major obstacles in the implementation of the Oslo deal. The writer suggested that the PLO conclude agreements to bind the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with the Arab countries and not to trust in the intentions of the Rabin government.

Security in the neighbourhoods is the new mission

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — In a blink of history's eye, desperate neighbours in turmoil have replaced distant and mighty enemies as the source of the most urgent security problems confronting the world's major powers. But the gaze of the world's leaders remains fixed on the methods and missions of the recent past.

The threats that mobilise America and Russia today come from their own periphery, not from each other, as in the cold war. While Bill Clinton wrestles with crisis in Haiti, Boris Yeltsin struggles to contain the wars of Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Elsewhere the security challenge is also closer to home. Western Europe is shaken by the wars of ex-Yugoslavia and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism across the Mediterranean. Japan is consumed with the direct threat posed by North Korea's bid for a nuclear weapon and by the indirect threat of chaos and national collapse in post-communist China.

Security in the cold war was handled by hardware and expression of resolve. But nuclear warheads and diplomatic brinkmanship will not help the Russians much in Georgia or Mr. Clinton in the Caribbean. Instead of instant annihilation from afar, presidents Clinton and Yeltsin confront the lesser but still profoundly unsettling dangers of getting mugged in their own "neighbourhoods."

The comparison is far from perfect. America's involvement in the Caribbean, whatever its flaws, is in no way comparable to Russia's imperialistic and brutal overwhelming of its neighbours in the past.

But collectively the threats on the periphery of America, Russia, Western Europe and Japan create a need for new and more focused concepts of security in international relations. Many of the common dangers to international stability are now concentrated in the neighbourhoods that surround the world's power centres.

The dramatic change in the nature and proximity of national security challenges requires Mr. Clinton, Mr. Yeltsin and their peers to look two ways at once for a while. They should handle Haiti, Georgia, Algeria and so on as neighbourhood challenges that also contain long-term implications for the organisation of a new balance of global stability.

The major powers must gradually fashion a collective effort to define the new mechanisms and mind-sets for these close-in security challenges. Eventually this effort would require a new collective forum, whose size and authority should be somewhere on the spectrum between the Group of Seven and NATO on the one hand and the 32-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations on the other.

That regrouping is still a long way off, however, and Haiti and Georgia challenge Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin (in vastly different ways) now. What they do to show they can manage their neighbourhoods in a fair and effective manner

will cast a long shadow across the approach to conflict resolution beyond the cold war.

That is why Haiti counts so much more for Mr. Clinton than did Somalia, an unfamiliar neighbourhood where America's involvement was never sufficient to affect significantly that country's future. If Haiti is a milestone towards the future, Somalia was a legacy of the recent past, of the old competitive security of the cold war, when Moscow and Washington fed weapons to local toughs to affect a largely illusory global balance of power.

The illusion of winning or losing U.S. security in distant places like Somalia is gone today. But the warlords, their weapons and struggles remain. When America got mugged in Somalia, the Clinton administration trotted out the old zero-sum security language about showing resolve and deterring aggression elsewhere, to no great effect.

Something of the overkill of the old global crusade also creeps into the administration's rhetoric on Haiti, which



Collapse of superpower rivalry raises new hopes and old conflicts

By Charles J. Gans
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Images that were once unimaginable grabbed the headlines: Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin shaking hands at the White House. Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk sharing the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1993, old conflicts from the Middle East to Cambodia moved closer to resolution, benefiting from superpower rivals-turned-friends. But the end of the East-West standoff also unleashed long-suppressed ethnic and religious strife in the former Soviet republics and Yugoslavia.

In the "new world order," Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin were plagued by domestic problems and less able to shape world events than their predecessors at the White House and Kremlin.

While the U.S.-and-Russian-backed Middle East peace talks "puttered along," Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation secretly negotiated their agreement on limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories.

Mr. Arafat, ostracised by moderate Arab states for supporting Iraq in the 1991 Gulf war, made yet another comeback to be welcomed in western capitals as a peacemaker.

But Palestinian militants and right-wing Israeli settlers tried to undermine the PLO-Israeli accord.

In South Africa, former enemies shared the Nobel Peace Prize for working peacefully to end apartheid and push their country to democracy. Mr. Mandela asked the world community to lift economic sanctions, ending decades of international isolation for South Africa.

But black and white extremists sought to derail the country's first multiracial elections set for next April.

Despite rising hopes for peace in some trouble spots, there were armed conflicts in more than 20 countries, mostly as a result of civil strife.

Alta was the hardest-hit continent, with major conflicts raging in Angola, Sudan, Liberia and Burundi, killing tens of thousands and displac-

ing hundreds of thousands.

There were fewer left-wing insurgencies, but more religious conflicts. Islamic fundamentalists struggled to overthrow the governments of Egypt and Algeria. India experienced its worst Hindu-Muslim communal violence since independence. Tensions rose between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, where Muslim militants pressed a campaign for independence.

In Sri Lanka, peace talks between the government and Tamil secessionists were put on hold after the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa by a suicide bomber.

China kept a tight lid on dissent, but leader Deng Xiaoping's call to set up a market economy triggered an economic boom.

But in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the drive toward democracy hit some roadblocks.

The year began with the Czechs and Slovaks peacefully breaking up their 74-year-old confederation.

Poland's anti-communist President Lech Walesa fretted as voters, frustrated by the hardships of economic reform, elected a leftist coalition, including former communists.

The moodiest war in Europe since World War II continued to rage in the former Yugoslavia.

The United States, Russia, European Community and the United Nations all failed to end the carnage among Muslims, Serbs and Croats in Bosnia, where more than 200,000 people were dead and more than 2 million left homeless.

Unable to agree on a partition plan, the warring Bosnian factions tried to change the map on the battlefield. Residents of besieged Sarajevo began their second winter of war threatened by hunger, disease and Serb shelling.

Moscow witnessed its worst political violence since the 1917 Bolshevik revolution. Mr. Yeltsin dissolved the hardline legislature obstructing his reforms and had the army storm the parliament building. The Russian president then scheduled a nationwide vote Dec. 12 for a new parliament and

constitution.

Beset by problems at home, Mr. Yeltsin could not do much to halt strife in former Soviet republics.

Eduard Shevardnadze, a world figure as Soviet foreign minister, found himself leader of a disintegrating Georgia, forced to flee for his life from Abkhazian rebels.

Christian Armenia and Muslim Azerbaijan fought over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Tajikistan, in Central Asia, was gripped by a civil war between former communists and Islamic forces that killed tens of thousands.

The end of the Soviet empire left the United States the sole remaining superpower. But that didn't help the new U.S. president get his way abroad.

The year began with U.S. warships off the coast of Haiti to prevent a mass exodus by refugees. It ended with U.S. ships blockading the Caribbean nation to enforce a U.N. embargo after Haitian military leaders reneged on an agreement to restore ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Saddam Hussein, having outlasted George Bush, continued to challenge U.N. weapons inspectors and menace Iraqi Kurds and Shiite Muslims, despite a U.N. embargo and occasional U.S. air strikes.

Libya's Muammar Qadhafi ignored U.N. sanctions as he defied U.S. and British demands to turn over suspects in the December 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Scotland.

The world's last communist dictator hung on. Fidel Castro resisted democratic reforms as the Cuban economy crumbled.

Mr. Clinton warned North Korea's aging Kim Il Sung that his country would not be allowed to build a nuclear bomb.

Warlord Mohammad Farah Aidede bloodied peacekeeping troops from the United States and other countries in Somalia, where a successful U.S.-led famine relief operation turned into a nation-building debacle for the United Nations.

The United Nations enjoyed more success in bringing peace to the killing fields of Cambodia. Prince Norodom Sihanouk, after a 23-year struggle to recapture power, was reinstated as head of state after U.N.-organised multiparty elections.

There were other notable political comebacks: Benazir Bhutto reclaimed the prime minister's post in Pakistan; Socialist Andreas Papandreu returned as Greek premier after voters rejected the conservative government's painful austerity measures.

Turkish Premier Tansu Ciller became the third woman to head a predominantly Muslim country after Mrs. Bhutto and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh.

is cited as a prime case of America's commitment to "enlarging democracy." But the problem is that a bunch of thugs hold an impoverished, overpopulated house in the neighbourhood and need to be kicked out.

That is an attainable and worthy goal for American leadership that can be carried out without direct military intervention. Sanctions can achieve the Haitian junta's downfall. But sanctions will not convert Haiti into a model for global democracy. Doing so will require a much larger American commitment.

Mr. Yeltsin faces a far more dangerous and difficult situation as Russian military and diplomatic involvement grows in Georgia's civil war, in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict and in combating the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in the former Soviet republics of Central Asia.

The Russians are asking the West to join their efforts in the south, or at least to extend understanding and support for what they are doing. This has led to debate in Western capitals among those who fear a rebirth of Russian imperialism and those who would give Mr. Yeltsin a relatively free hand in his own neighbourhood if that is what is needed to save his government in Moscow.

The latter approach is the right one, if Mr. Yeltsin also thinks small and keeps his actions limited to the neighbourhood scale. He must understand that the United States will not endorse the kind of unbridled violence that Russian troops have used in the region in the past and will not endorse assertion by Russia of a right to intervene in Ukraine or the Baltics in any manner.

The cold war was a global state of mind. There could be no complete security while nuclear bombers and rockets were on constant alert. Now we realise that there can be no complete security while neighbours remain in despair and turmoil. It is a message as old as the Bible, but one we are obliged to relearn from time to time — The Washington Post.

LETTERS

Jordanian troops in Croatia — epitome of courage and humaness

The following is a copy of a letter to General Jean Cot, Force Commander, UNPROFOR, Zagreb sent by M.C. Bassiouni, chairman of the Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council Resolution 780 (1992) in November. In the letter, copies of which were also sent to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali; and T.H. Stoltzberg, special representative of Mr. Ghali, Mr. Bassiouni highlighted the role being played by the Jordanian contingent in former Yugoslavia.

This is to express appreciation for the support that you U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and Civil Affairs have given to the commission.

After our visit to Zagreb, I went to Sector West to inspect the work of our team which was engaged in exhuming a reported mass grave near Polaris-Paerac. For your information, the reports we had were that the mass grave contained between 1,700-2,500 bodies. After a thorough search by a world renowned team of 18 forensic experts from eight countries gathered by Physicians for Human Rights and supported by a Dutch engineering unit (33), with the participation of Canadian military investigations (four), only 19 bodies were found.

The areas of search, exhumation and preliminary field forensic analysis were under the protection of the Jordanian Battalion under the command of Colonel Maged Al Mokabala. The unit directly involved was commanded by Major Bashir Abdul Rahman. The unanimous account of all our team participants was that the Jordanians were efficient and friendly. Their support was crucial to the success of our mission and we commend them to you.

During this mission something anecdotal occurred which I felt compelled to recount to you because of its extraordinary significance. During my visit to Sector West, the sector Commander Brigadier-General Kamal Shabsough invited me to a traditional Jordanian bedouin lunch. In the course of the meal, he called one of his officers and asked in Arabic whether someone had taken some of the food to the "old woman". The officer replied in the positive. I was curious enough to inquire about the "old woman". The brigadier-general then told me that a few kilometres away there were seven Serb villages which had been destroyed by the Croats and are now totally uninhabited but for an old woman, now 81. She was too old and too weak to run, so she hid and survived. The Jordanians found her and since they arrived some two years ago they have been caring for her. Every day they send one or two patrols to her house, bring her food daily, chop wood for her and their doctor visits her periodically. The Jordanian's quiet, dignified, humane, yet stern attitude has insured this woman's survival.

Curious about this situation, I asked to go see the "old woman" and was taken there by a number of Jordanian officers and soldiers. Indeed, there she was. On her table was a large plate filled with what we had at the hospitable luncheon. Everyone of the Jordanians who accompanied me knew her, and the affectionately called her "Baku", which I was told means grandmother. They joked with her and she with them. It was a heart-warming scene. Human kindness at its best in the midst of devastated surroundings.

Actually and symbolically these UNPROFOR forces have demonstrated that they save lives and maintain peace. In the midst of so many negative accounts about UNPROFOR and the United Nations' work, I thought it significant to evidence this single account which is no doubt only one of so many other acts of courage and humaneness by UNPROFOR and by so many others involved in the humanitarian effort in the former Yugoslavia. Instances such as those should be more widely known and surely your forces should also know that such acts are recognised and appreciated.

To paraphrase Albert Camus: "In the bitterness of cold winter, the hope of warm summer is dominant in human nature." Such acts of human kindness keep that hope alive of a better tomorrow.

The vicious circle of violence

To the Editor:

After reading Walced Sadi's article "Where does children's criminal responsibility start?" (Jordan Times, Dec. 6, 1993), I formulated some ideas that I would like to share with your readers.

The old saying "Knowledge is a two-edged weapon" gains more ground whenever a new technological device is produced. The murder of the two-year old Bulger demonstrates the threatening potential of televised violence. This outrageous crime must have been a touchy experience for those people immediately involved in it, like the victim's family, the convicts and their families. Yet, I think the inhumanity of the crime, especially the cold-bloodedness with which it was carried out, escapes nobody's attention.

As a matter of fact, this crime may be an indication of the homicidal menace awaiting human beings in the long run. The modern tendency towards technological every aspect of our lives, indiscriminately, is now paying back. Industrialists are mainly concerned with the sale percentage of their products disregarding the human factor and the negative impact their products might have.

The horror video which one of the two eleven-year-old convicts, Job Venables, is suspected to have watched some time before committing the crime is in no way to be considered the only immoral and evil film the child could have watched. Children of approximately their age all over the world are exposed to such films through sponsored TV channels, cinemas, or rented videos.

Mr. Sadi, in his article, brought the legality of the passed on the children harsh sentence in focus and wishes to "turn the finger of accusation away from the children, first to their parents and second to the society and governments."

What I would like to emphasise has little to do with the judicial processes of the trial. Yes, parents are indisputably accountable for the upbringing of their children. However, I think that it is prejudicial to condemn a father — Venable's father in this case — for renting and maybe displaying a horror video at home. After all, a pitilessly murderous mind like young Job's could not have fully developed in a correspondent reaction to one and only one horror video.

Tens of films celebrating various kinds of pathetically ruthless and degenerate heroes are being produced every week. The two little convicts, and any other child for that matter, might be able to give at least a dozen names of such heroes.

The evil behind this crime is beyond these two children, their parents or even their limited societies. This crime is of international concern and must be dealt with on this basis.

The irresponsible and narrow-minded creators and stereotypical heroes of violence on screen are still unaware of their counterproductive contribution to civilisation. The damage they have caused could easily go beyond repair unless all advocates of human civilisation hold hands determinedly to build a civilisation fit for human beings instead of robots. On the other hand, if no dramatic change occurs, we are liable to hear about and meet on the street more Bulgars, Thomsons and Venables.

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Irbid

مجلس النشر والصحافة العربية في الأردن

Capital punishment

How humane can death be?

By Waleed Sadi

THE international debate on the death penalty has taken a new twist when the so-called "abolitionists" began to split hairs over what contemporary form of capital punishment is "humane and not degrading" and what is not. After losing the battle over whether to outlaw the death penalty altogether or not, the opponents of this severe punishment are deploying other tactics in a bid to arrive at the same result in a roundabout way. By asserting that whereas capital punishment is still legal under existing international and local norms, many current methods for carrying out the sentence is so "inhuman and degrading," that it cannot be applied.

What brought this tactic into focus is the developing controversy over carrying out death penalty by gas asphyxiation as practiced in some American states. Some human rights activists claim that this method is so slow and painful that such jurisdictions that still apply it should commute the death sentence to imprisonment instead. Advocates of the death penalty or those who condone it on the basis that it is acceptable under international human rights treaties and is still on the law books of many nations of the world readily rebut this charge by pointing out that all forms of executions are extremely painful and in a sense "inhuman," no matter what method is deployed. Therefore, as long as capital punishment for the most serious crimes is acceptable under international and domestic laws, states have got to apply one form of execution or another as long as it is not so primitive or savage as to include, for example, crucifixion, which is clearly unacceptable.

The troubling issue for the human rights activists who fight tooth and nail the death penalty and are literally splitting hairs over the mechanics of this penalty is the obvious fact that condemned persons waiting on death row for even the shortest possible time suffer anguish and psychological pain of immense magnitude no matter how "humane" may the method of execution appear to be. Given the fact that some form of preparation or another always precedes the carrying out of the death sentence, the victim would naturally undergo extreme suffering and mental anguish before his or her death. Many such people simply collapse physically and psychologically as the moment for their death approaches. To argue therefore that some methods of carrying out the capital punishment are "humane" and others are not would not seem to hold much water even with the best of intentions.

Human Rights File

In another development on the application of the death penalty, Japan for example, does not tell the family of the condemned person about the date of execution till it is over and done with. This practice came under close scrutiny lately when Tokyo introduced its third periodic report to the international Human Rights Committee (HRC) and was found wanting on that score. It was thought that condemned criminals need ample time to prepare themselves for their death by communicating with their families and loved ones prior to its implementation. Equally, the families of the condemned people are also entitled to adequate time to discuss family matters with them prior to the ending of their lives. A new body of international norms is actually slowly developing not only on the most vexing issue of whether the death penalty can still be applied but also on other issues connected with capital punishment. Yet, in the final analysis, it is the capital punishment itself that will continue to haunt humanity. And as long as convicted criminals manage to end their incarcerations rather prematurely and roam the streets one again due to the extension of their legal safeguards, the call for the retention of the capital punishment would continue unabated.

As for the immediate issue of what is an acceptable form for carrying out such a severe sentence and what is not, it is doubtful that this dimension could ever find an equitable resolution since the nature of the punishment per se makes it seem "inhuman and degrading" no matter how "humane" some styles for its implementation are made to seem. Meanwhile, the HRC charged with the mandate of interpreting the various clauses of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) can be expected to continue to be seized with this aspect of the capital punishment with some members who are totally opposed to this punishment, capitalising on the differences between the various contemporary forms of carrying out the sentence as means to defeat its application altogether.

Debate on peace process

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan Television did not air any coverage of the expellees during the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Jordan in March 1993. The House includes minister's answers to questions submitted by members of the 11th Parliament if lawmakers request so.

Mr. Mansour, a member of the Islamic Action Front, said he was not convinced by the minister's explanation that technical reasons and the emergence of other news stories accounted for the limited coverage.

He described as "unobjective" the coverage of Jordan Television, adding that he would ask for a vote of no confidence in the minister if the information policy was not "corrected."

Mr. Abu Nowar said Jordan Television was doing an "excellent job" in its news coverage and rejected as unacceptable implications that the limited coverage of the expellees in March 1993 was connected to the visit of Mr. Christopher to Jordan.

Demanding an explanation of reported plans by Jordanian banks to reopen branches in the West Bank before reaching an economic agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Deputy Samir Habashneh charged that this issue was being handled by bureaucrats.

Mr. Abu Nowar said the reopening of Jordanian banks' branches in the West Bank had nothing to do with the economic agreement with the PLO, adding that the "issue is still being studied and has not yet been presented to the

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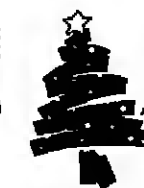
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OPEC unlikely to hold crisis talks to stem falling oil prices

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is not likely to hold emergency talks to rescue plunging oil prices and will await the outcome of Oman's contacts with other producers, Gulf oil sources said Sunday.

Although prices have remained below \$14, there was no signal from Saudi Arabia or other major producers in the Gulf that they would take any immediate action to lift prices from their lowest level in five years.

"I do not think Gulf states are in favour of an emergency meeting because they apparently want to give OPEC's recent output agreement time to work," said one Gulf oil source, close to the 12-nation group.

"An emergency meeting means OPEC will trim production. But it has made clear it will no longer play the residual producer. I believe it prefers to wait and see the results of Oman's consultations with other producers," he added.

Omani Oil Minister Said Ibn Ahmad Al Shanfari is due to tour several members of the so-called Independent Petroleum Exporting Countries (IPEC) to urge them to reduce output to support OPEC's bid in boosting prices.

The sultanate, which has acted as a link between OPEC and IPEC, took the lead last week by announcing it would cut five to 10 per cent from its oil production of 800,000 barrels per day (b/d) in January.

An Omani oil ministry official, contacted by telephone Sunday, said Mr. Shanfari had not yet prepared the programme of his trip.

He led their annual summit talks in Riyadh Monday. But oil sources ruled out any immediate action on production.

Gulf states suffer heavily from weak oil prices as crude exports account for the bulk of their earnings. Their budgets have been reeling under deficits and some of them have been forced to resort to borrowing.

However, they seem determined to defend their market share despite the drop in prices, in a departure from previous policy.

In the past Gulf producers cut production when prices fell due to high output by other producers, or raised output to keep prices at moderate levels to spur demand.

Such a policy was adopted after 1986, when oil prices tumbled to below \$10 due to a production war, pushing OPEC's revenues to a record low of \$75 billion, from a peak of \$280 billion in 1980.

In an article published in the United Arab Emirates daily Al Khaleej Sunday, Gulf oil analyst Hassan Fakhru said he

believed OPEC should return to the role of "swing producer."

"OPEC should return to the policy of high prices at the expense of production, because the current policy is pushing it into a deep abyss, as was the case in 1986," Mr. Fakhru said.

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Saturday blamed "global arrogance" for falling oil prices, saying Western powers were trying to put more pressure on Iran.

Cited by the official IRNA news agency, Mr. Rafsanjani told a gathering of Tehran University students that the country's resources were being used "appropriately, despite all the obstacles created by global arrogance."

Study sees '94 North Sea oil output up 13%

LONDON (R) — North Sea oil production by Britain and Norway is likely to jump even faster next year after a record-breaking 1993, according to a study.

But the report by analysts at the firm of Mackay Consultants warned that weak world oil prices, in part blamed on the rising tide of North Sea barrels, meant the industry has less to invest on drilling new wells for the future.

"We believe that the general trend... will be declining North Sea drilling activity," the study said.

Mackay Consultants reckon North Sea oil output is likely to rise 13 per cent in 1994 after a gain of 10.5 per cent this year.

The 1994 volume is seen averaging a record 5.26 million barrels daily after 4.66 million in 1993.

Norway is the biggest North Sea producer, with output next year likely to exceed 2.6 million. Britain will be just under 2.45 million.

By comparison, Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest producer and linchpin of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), produces 8.0 million.

But the year-on-year gain from the North Sea of 600,000 barrels daily equals twice the output of OPEC's smallest seller, Gabon.

OPEC is already furious at how world prices have dropped this year from around \$20 per barrel to less than \$14.

It says it has run out of patience making cuts in its own quotas to support the market, only to see rising volumes from Britain and Norway create new surpluses.

The study blamed the drop in oil prices partly on global recession which has hit demand but also on overproduction, including bigger North Sea volumes.

"Given that North Sea output is expected to be even higher in 1994, there is therefore unlikely to be any significant improvement in oil prices unless OPEC agrees to substantial cutbacks. We do not see that happening," the study said.

But the implications are that the North Sea may not be such a problem for OPEC further into the future.

The study said 14 per cent fewer offshore wells were drilled in the North Sea.

UAE central bank eases new lending rule

DUBAI (R) — The central bank of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has eased limits on lending after local banks said new rules would cost them business.

The rules, due to take effect next January, say a bank cannot lend more than seven per cent of its capital to a private institution or borrower or over 25 per cent to a public one.

"The seven per cent ratio shall apply to funded exposures only, while letters of credit, letters of guarantee and other unfunded exposures shall not be included in the ratio," a central bank statement said.

The ratio originally applied to all exposures.

The change was apparently in response to local banks urging central bank officials last week to make the limits more flexible depending on the type of credit product.

Limits on letters of credit, which play a key role in trade in the UAE, could be more flexible because they were more secure than loans, a banker at a UAE commercial bank told Reuters.

Local banks argued that the new rules would divert capital financing and loan business elsewhere at a time when the UAE's economy was expanding.

The UAE's 19 commercial banks extended credits of almost three billion dirhams (\$817 million) in the first half of 1993.

The statement said the central bank considered the lending ratios themselves to be "quite appropriate."

The new rules are part of moves by the central bank to regulate commercial banking. A rash of lending in the mid-1980s resulted in the mergers of several local banks.

Top banker says Germans has to make sacrifices

FRANKFURT (R) — A leading German banker says Germans have to be prepared to make sacrifices as the country grapples with the huge costs of unification.

Horst Koehler, president of the German Savings Banks Association, told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung newspaper that real wages in western Germany would have to fall for some years to come.

"There is no way of returning to healthy state finances without social hardships," added Mr. Koehler, who until recently was a senior official in the Bonn finance ministry.

In comments likely to irritate trade unions, Mr. Koehler also said western Germany could not transfer five per cent of its economic production to eastern Germany and at the same time maintain wages at current levels.

"There is no alternative: Real incomes in western Germany will probably have to fall for a few years," he emphasised.

In a separate interview published at the weekend, Klaus Zwickel, head of Germany's largest union, I.G. Metall, gave warning of industrial conflict and possible riots if German employers did not soften their call for cuts in wages.

Making clear that I.G. Metall wanted to achieve pay increases in line with inflation at the very least, Mr. Zwickel said the union would be forced to strike if management did not change its position.

That in turn would prompt lock-outs by the management that would lead to political and social turmoil.

In his interview, Mr. Koehler predicted a further rise in German unemployment in 1994 and said economic growth next year and in 1995 would not be sufficient to create more jobs than were being lost through corporate restructuring.

Mr. Koehler also said Germany's debt problems were now so large that all sectors of society had to help. State benefits would increasingly have to be limited to what was really necessary.

He believed the reductions

in social benefits had to be considered as part of a reform of the unemployment benefit system.

Mr. Koehler said it was particularly important for Germans to assume more responsibility for themselves as far as social welfare was concerned.

"The fully comprehensive cover that we have now can no longer be financed," he added.

Mr. Koehler said the Bonn government's initial aim had to be to bring public sector deficits down to three per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), as stipulated in the Maastricht union treaty.

Germany's total public sector deficit is now around 7.5 per cent of GDP.

Ukraine's parliament gives tacit approval to reforms

KIEV (R) — Ukraine's parliament gave tacit approval to the government's eighth attempt in two years to bring an economic tailspin under control, but backed away from any responsibility on carrying it out.

The programme, which seeks to bring under control monthly inflation of 70 per cent, combines some market reforms with renewed centralised control over export, production and hard currency.

It proposes speeding up privatisation, liberalising the tax system, and cutting subsidies for energy to most state firms. But it stops short of radical

market reforms, such as price liberalisation, establishment of real currency markets, and a halt to heavy subsidies to industry and agriculture.

"We need short-term stabilisation measures before a full-fledged economic programme can be effective," Economy Minister Roman Shepko told journalists.

A budget and economic programme for 1994 would be presented to parliament later this month, he said.

The Soviet-era parliament, dominated by conservatives, was not obliged to approve or reject the programme.

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06 Electrician
03 Child Day Care
38 Personal Computer Specialist
29 Police Sciences
10 Private Security Officer
09 Legal Secretary
55 Diesel Mechanics
94 Fitness & Nutrition
85 Drafting
260A Architecture
260C Machine Shop
161 Engineering
41 Journalism/Short Story Writing
40 Photography
70 Computer-Assisted Small Business Mgmt.
79 Electronics Technician
91 Cartooning
27 Personal Computer Repair
26 Teacher Aide
30 Floral Design

China to become net oil importer next year

BEIJING (R) — China has said that after 20 years as an oil exporter it will become a net importer in 1994 because production cannot keep up with the soaring economy.

The International Business newspaper, published by the ministry of foreign trade and economic cooperation, said domestic demand was rising sharply because of the rapid growth in the economy.

In the first 10 months of this year, crude output was 120.585 million tonnes, up 1.9 per cent on the same period in 1992, while industrial output rose 23.2 per cent in the same period.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY DECEMBER 20, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

This morning you will have an opportunity to get an enlarged vision of just where you headed, what you can expect in the future and those who are going to be making the journey with you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Early in the day you may be able to start tasks on a satisfactory basis but soon conditions arise which put some blocks in the way and tonight quickly enjoy the evening with mate.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Give attachment proof of your affection in the morning hours then be off to seeking ways by which you can eliminate links in your special talent.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get rid of any pressing problems at home early then you can tackle whatever requires your own special attention without bothering others.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think about the various and sundry communications that are most or pressing and get out as quickly as possible, enjoy simple amusements tonight.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Attend to money matters after breakfast, then consider all phases of your present financial condition and do nothing to endanger your security.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have a good idea for

gaining an anticipated goal in the morning but you soon find there are too many difficulties attending gaining it, so postpone action.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You feel you have far too many limiting conditions at present to move forward as you wish but take them one at a time and you accomplish much.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Those friends you have counted on to handle some phase of a personal goal you wish are too preoccupied with their own activities to do so now.

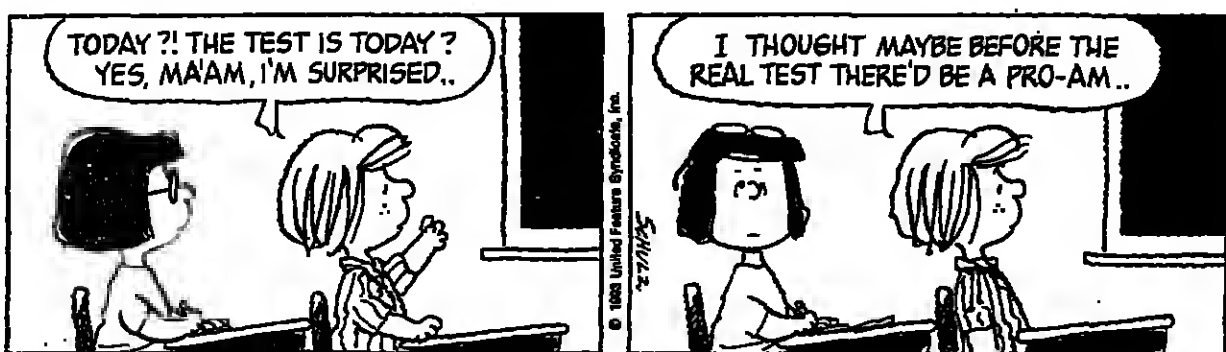
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You need to be as wise as the serpent and as harmless as the dove in all outside, public or vocational matters today and tonight.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You had better stick to a course of action already put into motion although you are discouraged and wish to make some radical changes.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are inclined to squabble over some account or statement but be sure of your facts and figures and then you'll be wise to pick a better time.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Avoid the likelihood today to have some drawn out conversation with a partner or associate for it could lead quickly to some bad feelings.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



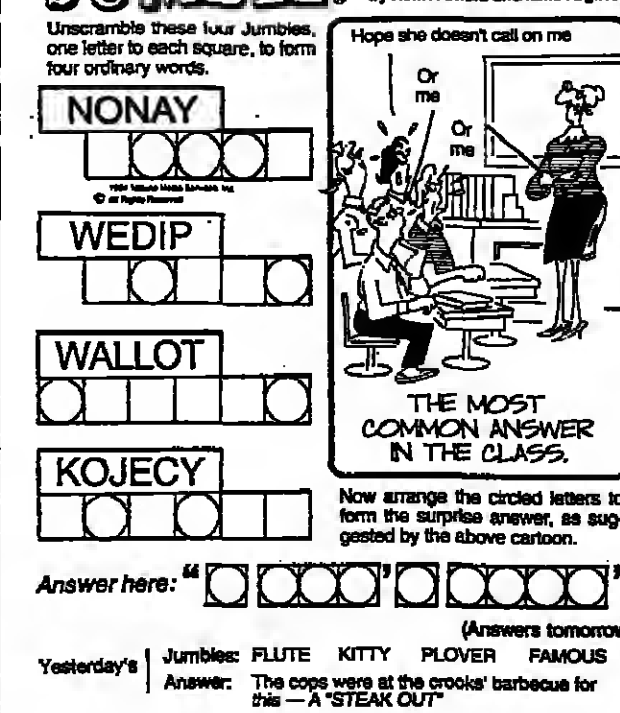
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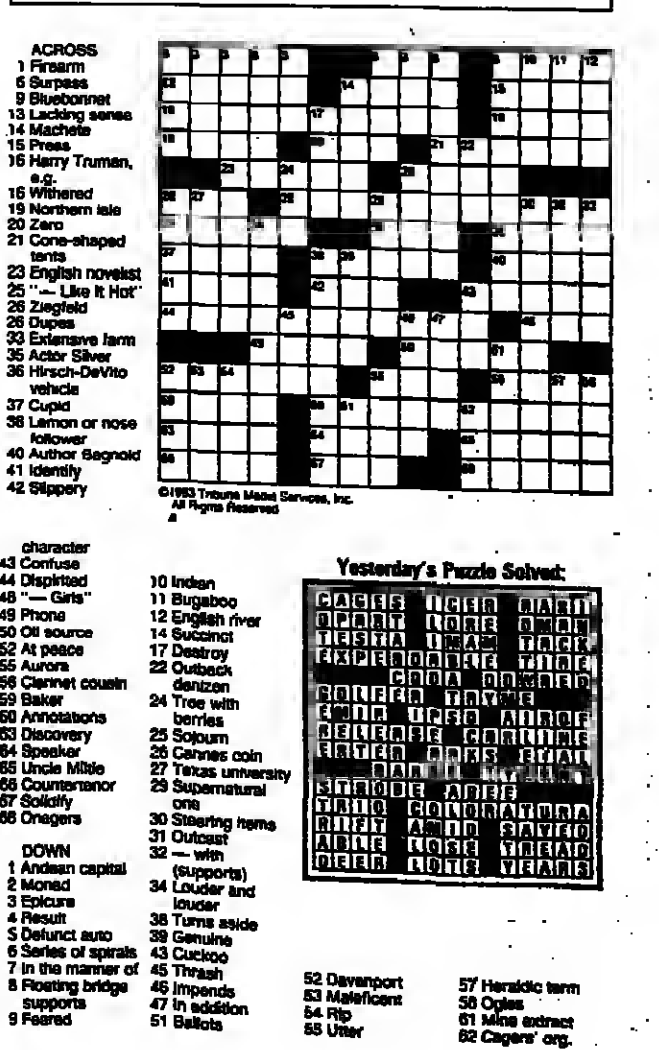
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Russia opposes sanctions against Pyongyang

North Korea has several atomic bombs, report says

HONG KONG (Agencies) — North Korea possesses several small nuclear bombs and the means of delivering and triggering them, a Hong Kong newspaper reported Sunday.

The Sunday Morning Post, in a report from Beijing, gave as its source two senior European diplomats based in the Chinese capital who had just returned from Pyongyang.

"North Korea has, in our opinion, the full capacity to enrich natural uranium and graphite of North Korean origin, and has built several kilowatt-sized bombs. We established, as well, that testing sites exist," the newspaper quoted one Western diplomat as writing in a report.

The newspaper also concluded the North Koreans had finally perfected ignition devices for nuclear weapons and had adapted their Scud-B missiles to carry weapons of mass destruction.

Pyongyang has also acquired mobile launching vehicles — the chassis of Iveco heavy duty trucks made by Fiat of Italy, the newspaper quoted the envoys as saying.

The newspaper quoted the sources as saying North Korea had imported high-explosive testing material and neutron initiator materials such as polonium 210 and tritium.

But Pyongyang had not performed a full-scale nuclear test which would be detectable overseas, it said.

However, heat output measurements of North Korea's nuclear reactor have given some estimates of the amount of plutonium they have produced — believed to be enough for at least half a dozen bombs, the newspaper said.

The North denies it is developing nuclear weapons but has refused to allow international inspectors to verify the claim.

Pyongyang threatened in March to pull out of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty rather than how to international pressure to open up two suspect sites at Yongbyon to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

It agreed to suspend its withdrawal after securing high-level talks with Washington. But negotiations are at an impasse, raising the possibility the United States and its allies may seek U.N. sanctions.

Pyongyang has said it is prepared to risk sanctions, even war, rather than accept U.S. demands.

The Post report said the envoys met Kim Jong-Il, the enigmatic 51-year-old heir apparent who very rarely meets Western visitors.

It gave no details about how they gathered their information on the reported nuclear weapons programme.

Meanwhile, a Seoul press report Sunday quoted Vice

Foreign Minister Georgi Kunadze as saying Russia believes imposing U.N. sanctions to pressure North Korea to allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities would be counterproductive.

Mr. Kunadze told Yonhap News Agency in a Moscow-dated story that U.N. sanctions against North Korea could lead to war. Pyongyang has warned in the past it would take "self-defensive measures" against such U.N. measures.

"But now the dialogue between North Korea and the United States is under way, so we need to wait for the results," said Mr. Kunadze. "Discussing military or economic sanctions at the current stage is not helpful to settlement of the North Korean nuclear problem."

Mr. Kunadze added that South Korean President Kim Young-Sam planned to visit Russia next year, but that details of the visit had yet to be worked out. A top Seoul official was quoted in the Yonhap report as saying Russian officials were hoping Mr. Kim would visit around June.

Mr. Kunadze will take over as Russian ambassador to South Korea in January amid mounting tension over Pyongyang's alleged nuclear weapons programme.

His remarks were the latest yet that Moscow would oppose international sanctions to pressure its former Communist ally, North Korea, to allow inspections of its secretive nuclear facilities.

Russia, which has moved closer to Seoul since the demise of Soviet communism, has the power to block any such move with its veto as one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

China, the sole Communist nation with a permanent seat on the Security Council, has repeatedly indicated over the past year that it might use its veto to block any such move against its ally North Korea.

The United States, which together with Britain and France, completes the permanent five members of the Council, has backed away in recent months from earlier threats to seek U.N. sanctions.

A Seoul press report Saturday said North Korea, in working-level talks to be held Monday in New York with the United States, would accept, with a few reservations, a recent U.S. offer aimed at breaking the nuclear impasse.

The report said Washington, in working-level talks on Dec. 10, had offered to announce a cancellation of joint U.S.-South Korean war games in exchange for renewed international Atomic Energy Agency inspections of Pyongyang's nuclear facilities.

Mr. Kunadze, in the interview, said Russia supported a 1992 inter-Korean nuclear ban accord which broke down at the working level, adding that peace on the Korean peninsula was important to the security of Russia and all North East Asia.



60 feared dead in Colombia mudslide

Colombian rescue workers have recovered 30 bodies and fear more than 30 other missing people are also dead after a mud slide swept through a town in northwestern Colombia, a red cross official said Saturday. Workers searched through the rubble of what was left of a small farming town in Antioquia province about 100 kilometres northwest of Medellin for the missing. A rain-swollen La Desmotadora stream

sent mud sweeping through the town of Dabeiba Friday evening, killing 36 people and demolishing 25 houses including a retirement home. About 200 people were left homeless. Water and electricity to the town were cut. The photograph shows rescue workers and residents searching for bodies through the debris (AFP photo)

Russian premier attacks Gaidar

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin attacked the architect of Boris Yeltsin's radical market reforms this weekend in the first clear sign of pressure for policy change after last week's elections.

Mr. Chernomyrdin's blunt criticism of Economics Minister Yegor Gaidar raises questions over the future of the man who, as head of the pro-reform electoral campaign, bears some blame for the breakthrough by militant nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

"We should face the truth and admit that many people voted against the hardships and mistakes of the current reforms rather than for any specific political platform," Mr. Chernomyrdin said.

The election defeat is a personal evaluation of Gaidar as the person responsible for the Economics Ministry. The same goes for (Privatisation Minister Anatoly) Chubais.

"They should think it over hard. They have a lot to think about now," he told the conservative Trud newspaper.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said he had warned Gaidar against his "shock therapy" reforms when he launched them in January 1992. Nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy had fed on the failures of those policies in last Sunday's polls for the new State Duma.

"It was wrong to jump into the river without testing the water first," Mr. Chernomyrdin said.

Mr. Yeltsin was forced to drop Gaidar as acting prime minister and replace him with Mr. Chernomyrdin in December 1992 under pressure from a conservative parliament.

Conservatives had expected Mr. Chernomyrdin, a man solidly backed by the marshals of state industry, to ease a financial squeeze and free more funds to prop up major enterprises.

But Mr. Chernomyrdin remained loyal to the tenets of the reform programme and personally to Mr. Yeltsin — a loyalty he restated recently on television.

The question now arising is whether Mr. Yeltsin can retain Mr. Gaidar in the face of a fractious parliament that, far from being the obedient disciple of market reforms he had envisaged, may now turn into a hostile adversary to his government.

Mr. Yeltsin can ill afford to disregard the stark message of the nationalist successes at the Dec. 12 elections. Outside the pro-reform strongholds of Moscow and St. Petersburg, the "credit of trust" Mr. Yeltsin appealed for two years ago is long exhausted.

Leaders of the Russian Communist, Agrarian and Democratic parties have held talks on forming a parliamentary alliance, Interfax News Agency reported Saturday.

It said leaders of the three groups met Friday and agreed to support each other in the appointment of parliament's future committees and other bodies.

Latest official results of the Dec. 12 legislative elections published Saturday in the government daily Rossiyskaya Vesti gave 68 seats to the communists, 49 to the Agrarian Party and 22 to the Democratic Party of Russia led by Nikolai Travkin — a total of 139.

The Liberal Democratic Party of Mr. Zhirinovskiy is credited with 74 seats.

Pro-reforms parties will not have a majority on their own in the 450-seat Duma.

Anatoly Chubais, a leader of Russia's Choice, the main party backing President Yeltsin, emphasised Saturday the need for an "anti-fascist coalition."

However, such a coalition would have to include all centrist deputies including those of Travkin's Democratic Party, Rossiyskaya Vesti noted.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev called on Germany Sunday to keep supporting Russian reforms, fearing his country faced international isolation after the victory of ultra-nationalists in the general elections.

Mr. Kozyrev made the request in talks with his German counterpart Klaus Kinkel in Suzdal, 200 kilometres northwest of Moscow, aides to Mr. Kinkel said.

Russian authorities are worried that Germany may seek closer ties with other Central and East European countries after Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party swept last Sunday's poll.

Former Monkee Davy Jones arrested

SELINSBURG, Pennsylvania (R) — David Thomas Jones, better known as Davy Jones, lead singer for the 1960s television rock group, the Monkees, was jailed on drunk driving charges, police said. Police said Jones was arrested for drunk driving after driving erratically on a state highway near this northeastern Pennsylvania town Thursday night. He was freed Friday after posting \$5,000 bail. Jones, 47, was born in Manchester, England, now a father of four, has been living in the rural area since 1987. The Monkees were created for a 1965 television comedy series about a rock group, but went on to become real-life rock stars with top 40 hits such as I'm a Believer and Daydream Believer in 1966 and 1967 respectively.

Garland's Oscar takes a walk

NEW YORK (R) — Judy Garland's half-sized Oscar won for The Wizard Of Oz was withdrawn from auction Saturday, four days after Vivien Leigh's Best Actress Award was sold for \$63,000. Christie's auction house said Garland's family withdrew the 6-and-a-half-inch (16.5 cm) tall, gold-plated statuette from sale after deciding to donate it to a private institution. Garland's Academy Award was to be the highlight of an auction of entertainment memorabilia that included scrapbooks, photographs, and costumes by such Hollywood legends as John Barrymore, Groucho Marx and Gloria Swanson. The day's sale, which included antique toys brought in a total of \$806,314. Garland was 17 when she played Dorothy in the 1939 film and won the award for best juvenile performance that year.

Reward posted for manhole cover thieves

DHAKA (AFP) — The mayor of Dhaka has offered a 10,000 taka (\$250) reward to help catch thieves stealing manhole covers, newspapers reported here Sunday. Mirza Abbas said he was concerned about the thefts, which resulted in serious accidents to pedestrians who fall into the coverless manholes during the night or when roads are flooded in monsoon season. The thieves sell the covers as scrap.

Reattached organ fails to work at first try

MANASSAS, Virginia (R) — John Wayne Bobbitt has tried unsuccessfully to have sex with an old girlfriend since his penis was reattached after his wife severed it with a kitchen knife, he said in an interview to be aired Tuesday. In the interview, Bobbitt said he had thought his penis had been cut off by accident until doctors told him his wife had used a knife to cut it off, and said he believed his penis had grown longer since its surgical reattachment in June. "I'd say it's a little longer than it was," he said in the interview with Jenny Jones, an NBC talk-show host. NBC provided a transcript of the interview. He and his wife Lorena caught the public's eye in a big way last June when she cut off his penis with a kitchen knife in their Manassas, Virginia apartment. She later threw the severed organ out of her car window as she fled. It was recovered and reattached in hours of microsurgery. John, 26, was acquitted Nov. 10 of charges that he raped Lorena, who is 24. She goes on trial here on Jan. 10 on charges of maliciously wounding her husband. Asked about the incident during the interview, Bobbitt said he had no idea his wife had used a knife until doctors told him. Asked how long it might take before he could again have sex, Bobbitt said it might be "a couple years" but added that he had already tried — and failed.

Koreans dreaming of Venice see snow in Sweden

STOCKHOLM (R) — After seeing the sights of Stockholm, the South Korean newlyweds next wanted to visit romantic Venice as part of their honeymoon. But instead of the picturesque canals and Piazza San Marco of the Italian Adriatic port, all they saw was a small, snow-covered timber when the Swedish train halted at Varnas, 500 kilometres north of Stockholm. A railway station clerk in Stockholm has misheard Hwang Won Paik's English and sold him and his bride Young Chin a ticket to the similar-sounding Swedish community. Sweden's state railway (SJ) came to the rescue. It refunded their fare and booked them on a train heading south to Italy.

Mandela urges black patience, whites not to fear

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Nelson Mandela said Sunday the rebuilding of South Africa must begin immediately after the all-race election in South Africa but that change must be gradual to meet black aspirations without scaring off whites.

It could take "some years" for a government led by his African National Congress (ANC) to respond fully to black needs after 300 years of white supremacy, he told Reuters in an interview.

A programme of national reconstruction and development must immediately be launched," he said.

Homes, jobs, education and health care would be priorities but he had cautionary words for the country's black majority.

"We are warning our people against exaggerated expectations. To address these questions it is necessary for us to mobilise resources," he said.

"Change must be gradual, must be smooth. There must be no dislocation ... whatever

chances we introduce must be done in such a way address the needs of the masses at the same time without frightening the whites."

Other key points addressed by Mr. Mandela during an interview in his office at the ANC headquarters in central Johannesburg were:

He accused the government of President F.W. de Klerk, co-recipient of this year's Nobel Peace Prize, of conniving in the violence-ridden black communities in order to keep blacks from voting and prevent the ANC winning a majority on April 27. He and Mr. de Klerk were not friends, he said.

It would be a "tragic mistake" to underestimate the power of the white ultra-right to destabilise a democratic government. The ANC would make every effort to persuade them to rejoin the transitional process but would never concede a white homeland.

Black demands for land and better living standards could be addressed without touching

white assets.

The white community would rally to support the new South Africa with aid and investment.

The nation had "every reason to look to the future with confidence and a lot of hope."

Mr. Mandela predicted the ANC and its allies would win the election, but said it would have to deal with Mr. de Klerk's "ruthlessly efficient" National Party.

He said violence could result in 40 per cent of blacks staying away from the polls. If that happened, the National Party would have a chance of victory. "I cannot excuse him (de Klerk) for that because he has the capacity to put an end to the violence. He is conniving in it deliberately because it serves his political objectives," he added.

Mr. Mandela said Mr. de Klerk had to be given credit for his role in ending apartheid and for being accessible to him "day or night."

Asked if he and Mr. de

Klerk had become friends despite being political opponents, he smiled.

"It's difficult to know what friendship means. Some people give an elaborate definition — R means reliable, I means innocent, E means earnest, N means near, D means dear."

"Perhaps if you look at it from that angle, we are not friends."

Mr. Mandela said the far-right, which stands aloof from the democracy agreement reached by the government, the ANC and 19 other black and white parties, had a substantial following in the civil service, army and police and ran key installations.

He said the ANC had a duty to get them on board but added: "What we are not going to allow, of course, are demands like an Afrikaner Volkstaat (homeland). There is no question of our ever conceding to that demand."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Voters lose trust in Major — poll

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major's conservative government remains deeply unpopular, according to an opinion poll Sunday, citing mistrust among British voters. An ICM poll for the Observer newspaper suggested Mr. Major had failed to build the trust of British voters. Only one in seven people — or 14 per cent — thought he made the best prime minister, against 38 per cent when he won an April 1991 election. Only 11 per cent of more than 1,000 people polled last Monday and Tuesday believed the government was trustworthy, according to the liberal newspaper. The Observer blamed Mr. Major's backtracking over the tax rises for the poor showing but noted the survey came before Mr. Major launched an initiative for peace in Northern Ireland Wednesday.

Court acquits Bhutto's husband

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — A Pakistani court Sunday acquitted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, of kidnapping — two years after he was charged. "There was nothing in the case, it should not have been brought to the court," a delighted Zardari told reporters at the special court for the suppression of terrorist activities. Zardari has now been acquitted of 10 charges, including one of murder, filed shortly after his wife was sacked as prime minister in August 1990 just 20 months into his five-year term of office. Mr. Zardari was accused of kidnapping a London-based Pakistani businessman and demanding 10 million rupees (\$333,000) as ransom. The verdict has yet to be announced on four others charged in the same case. "The applicant (Zardari) was falsely implicated in this case," the judge said in his verdict.

Actor Sam Wanamaker dies

LONDON (R) — American actor and director Sam Wanamaker, the inspiration behind the rebuilding of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on the River Thames in London, died Saturday at the age of 74. His family said Wanamaker, who had been based in Britain since the 1950s, died at his London home after a five-year battle with cancer. Chicago-born Wanamaker made his stage debut at the age of 17 as a classical actor and appeared in plays throughout the United States and later on Broadway. But, after a long career that also spanned film, television and directing opera, he dedicated the last 25 years to a campaign to build a replica of the 16th century wooden Globe Theatre on its original London site. "Sam Wanamaker's death is a sad loss coming at a time when his long held dream was nearing fulfillment. That dream will still come true," said the trustees of the Shakespeare Globe Trust in a statement. Wanamaker, founder and chief executive of the Globe Trust, travelled the world raising funds for the £8 million (\$11.9 million) project.

CIA memo praises Cedras

MIAMI (R) — A 1992 memo by a top CIA analyst praised Haiti's military strongman General Raoul Cedras as "a conscientious military leader" and claimed there was no evidence of military abuses against civilians. The Miami Herald reported Saturday. The newspaper said it had obtained a secret CIA memo written by the agency's top Latin America analyst, Brian Latell, after a five-day visit to Haiti and the Dominican Republic in July 1992. Mr. Latell's memo said he found "no evidence of oppressive rule" and that "there is no systematic or frequent lethal violence aimed at civilians," the Herald said. The memo, as reported by the Herald, clashed with accounts by human rights monitors of widespread abuses in Haiti and with the U.S. State Department's own assessment of army repression at the time.

No breakthrough in China-Taiwan talks

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan and China failed to achieve a breakthrough in the disputed hijacking issue during the second day of their unprecedented series of talks, although both sides stressed progress had been made. But they did agree to set up an arbitration board to resolve fishery disputes during the talks, the first high-level visit of a Chinese delegation to Taipei in more than 40 years. Negotiators from Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) and the Beijing-based Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) agreed in principle that hijackers claiming political, military and religious motives would not be repatriated. However, they bogged down on the wording of what type of hijacker should be excluded from repatriation. "If a hijacker who diverts a plane from China to the island is a Taiwan national, he should not be repatriated to the mainland, vice versa the case if the hijacker is a mainland national," said Shi Hwei-You, Taiwan's chief negotiator and deputy secretary-general of the SEF.

Abiola renews claim to presidency

LAGOS (R) — Abiodun Abiola has renewed his claim to the Nigerian presidency and dismissed speculation he had cut a deal with the new military rulers. In a statement published in Sunday newspapers, Mr. Abiola said he still seeks recognition of annulled June presidential elections despite recent political changes in the country. "I firmly stand by that mandate with all its implications," he said in his first public statement since a new military government seized power last month. Mr. Abiola, a multimillionaire businessman, is widely believed to have won the June 12 election annulled by former military ruler Ibrahim Babangida. Gen. Babangida stepped down in August, handing power to an interim government which made way last month for new military strongman General Sani Abacha. Gen. Abacha on Nov. 18, a day after taking power, banned political parties and dissolved elected institutions, scuttling a seven-year-old democratisation programme.

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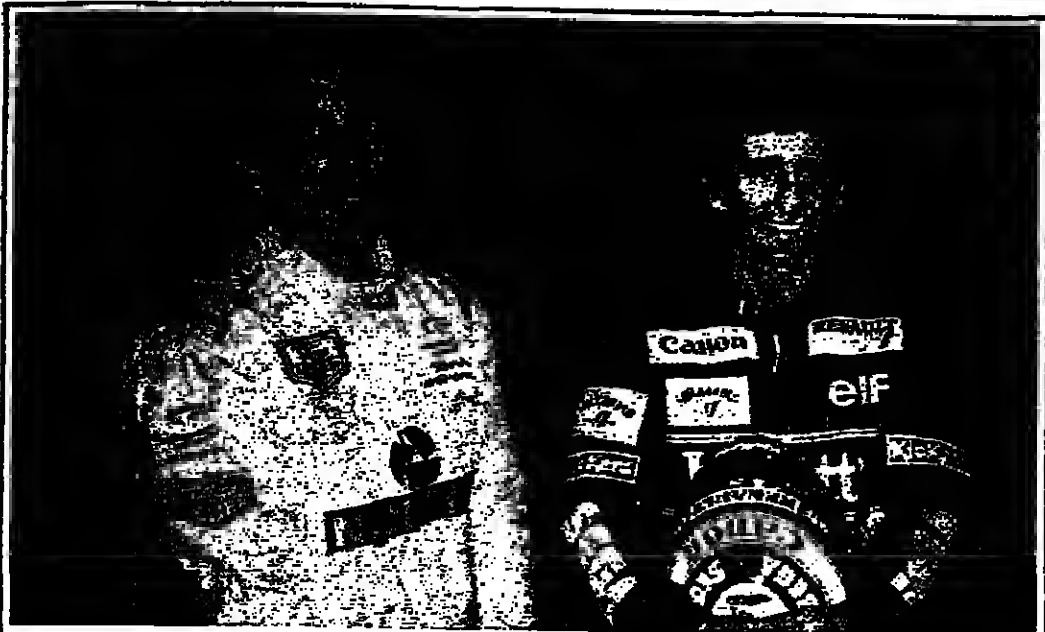
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Prost cool on McLaren offer

PARIS — Ron Dennis' hopes of signing Alain Prost for McLaren-Peugeot next season took a nose-dive here Saturday night. Dennis revealed in England Thursday that he wants to persuade France's four-time world champion not to retire after all. But Prost, who was in Paris for a karting extravaganza that also included his archrival Ayrton Senna, said: "Right now, it is out of the question for me to go back on my decision to no longer drive in Formula One. At the moment, all I'm thinking about is the holidays. Ron Dennis can always

try his luck, but for the time being it's out of the question." Dennis had said: "I would like to employ Alain next year. I'm in constant contact with all drivers, retired or unretired, who might be of benefit to McLaren. We're a family team and drivers like Alain like that environment and miss it." Senna has replaced Prost at Williams Renault for 1994. The photograph shows Senna (left) and Prost together during the karting tournament (AFP photo).

Schneider turns heat on Wachter

SAINT ANTON, Austria (AFP) — Switzerland's Vreni Schneider turned the heat on Austrian rival Anita Wachter here Sunday as she won the Alpine World Cup slalom event.

But Wachter showed her fighting spirit by refusing to give up after a huge blunder wrecked her race chances — a decision which kept her just ahead in the overall rankings.

Schneider won in 1 min 47.84secs, beating Pernilla Wiberg (1:48.58) and Kristina Anderson (1:48.71) and staking her claim as a Lillehammer Winter Olympic favorite.

The combined weekend crowned two to Austrian teenager Renate Goetschl, fourth in the downhill and second in the slalom, but it was Wachter's performance which provided the focal point of Sunday's race.

Fourth fastest after the first run, the 26-year-old set a scorching early pace before rattling a gate and almost grinding to a halt.

Wachter seemed to be skipping out but got going again after realising there were still World Cup points on offer, eventually finishing 12th.

Schneider, fastest after the first leg, still had to show ice-cool nerves, however, after Wiberg and Anderson looked on course for a Swedish double.

Wiberg, the double Olympic and world giant slalom champion, had claimed the fastest time by half a second and Andersson, who has never won a World Cup event, hugged her teammate in celebration after going second.

But their hopes of a one-two finish were ended by Schneider's superb finale.

It was the 29-year-old's second win of the season after her Santa Caterina slalom triumph.

Wachter now faces a major psychological test after seeing her early season form drain away.

The World Cup overall title holder began campaign with two consecutive wins and two runner-up spots in the first four events, but has only added one second-place in the next five races.

Goetschl, who surprised everyone in Saturday's downhill, finished the first slalom run in tenth place before producing another fine, aggressive run.

Her only previous success was a slalom win in Lillehammer last year.

Wiberg came second in the combined, with Bibia Perez of Italy just beating Wachter to third place.

Italian Deborah Compagnoni, a double winner this season, missed out after taking a crashing fall on her second slalom run.

Schneider revealed after her win, the 46th of her career, that she had been suffering from flu at the start of the week and had skipped Saturday's downhill event because she had still been feeling unwell.

"I hadn't expected to win after my flu but sometimes things go well when you least expect it," she said.

Locker wins in Italy

Meanwhile in Alta Badia, Italy, Steve Locher's stunning second run in the giant slalom

Life not easy for German on U.S. tour

PALO ALTO, Calif. (R) — There was no hot water left in the showers when the German team returned to the dressing rooms after their 3-0 victory over the United States in a friendly Saturday.

The situation summed up their two-match tour of the U.S. perfectly.

The games against Argentina and the U.S. in the last four days have not been a warm and soothing experience for the world champions as they intensify their build-up to next year's World Cup here.

They suffered their first defeat for a year in a 2-1 loss to Argentina in Miami last Wednesday and struggled to break down a very defensive American team in the early stages Saturday.

Berti Vogts' team, who have missed out on competitive World Cup qualifying matches because as champions they go through automatically to the finals, have learned that nobody is going to be easy to overcome when they defend their title next year.

Wednesday's final game of their December trio of pre-World Cup matches is against Mexico in front of more than 100,000 fanatical fans in Mexico and will provide the world champions with one of their toughest tests for a long time.

Even with talented midfielder Andy Moeller in some of the best form of his life, the world champions struggled to find a way past the American's offside trap and defensive tactics for long periods Saturday.

Germany's first two goals came from set pieces.

Faisali stays on top with impressive win against Wihdat

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Faisali this week held on to their three-point lead atop the first division soccer championship as the first leg of the Kingdom's most prestigious soccer competition reared the end with Al Ramtha having four postponed matches.

Al Ramtha play the first of these matches when they take on titleholders Al Faisali in a most-important clash Tuesday. They will then face Al Jazireh on the 24th, Al Baqaa on the 28th and Al Yarmouk on the 31st. Al Yarmouk will face Al Faisali in another postponed match on the 27th.

If they win at least three of their four matches, Al Ramtha will move to the top-three positions and be in a good spot to chase the title they last won in 1982. They were runners-up in 87,88 and 89.

During the past week Al Hussein held on to third place with a big 6-1 win over Al Arabi who remained in fifth position.

However, the week's most notable score was Al Faisali's 1-0 win over Al Wihdat.

The match which was played in Irbid did not draw the usual large number of fans probably because of live television coverage.

The most-awaited clash of the two most popular teams in the country did not rise up to expectations as both former champions played a careful, slow match during the first half.

Al Faisali's Jiryes Tadros

two scoring chances were

aborted by Al Wihdat's

acrobatic goalie Naser Ghandour, while Al Wihdat, who

missed the efforts of Ibrahim

Sa'diyeh and Jamal Mahmoud,

did not pose any real threat to Al Faisali's goal.

Tadros scored the only goal of the match when he received a pass from Subhi Suleiman in the 61st minute.

Ghandour saved his team from at least three definite chances by Tadros and Mousa Awad and the clash ended with a precious win for Al Faisali.

In another match Al Ahl upset Al Ramtha with a 1-0 win that kept Al Ahl secure in second place for now.

Khalil Patafah scored his team's winning goal in the 66th minute, while teammates Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib and Nari Yadaq lost three scoring chances that would have humiliated their opponents who seemed content with a 1-0 loss.

Newcomers Al Baqaa advanced to 10th place after an important 1-0 win over Al Yarmouk in a match which was characterised as the dullist clash of the week.

Mohammad Wahid gave Al Baqaa's fans something to really cheer for when he netted in the goal in the 80th minute.

Meanwhile Al Qadissieh finally scored their second win when they beat Al Fuhais 2-1 to advance to 8th place.

Not only did Al Qadissieh attend the match with a minimum number of players, having only one substitute on the bench, but striker Munir Hantash had to play with a painful injury throughout the first half.

Nevertheless, Hantash was instrumental in assisting his teammates score two goals early in the match.

Mustafa Adam received passes from Hantash to score both goals in the 25th and 35th minutes. Al Qadissieh then retreated to defensive positions while Al Fuhais went on the offensive. Waed Sweis nearly

Standings after

11th week

Team	P	W	GD	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Faisali	10	8	1	1	—	23	4	27
Ahl	11	6	—	3	2	18	9	24
Hussein	11	5	2	3	1	17	6	23
Wihdat	11	4	2	2	3	9	8	18
Arabi	11	3	—	3	5	14	22	15
Ramtha	7	4	—	1	2	10	5	14
Jazireh	10	2	—	4	4	13	14	14
Qadissieh	11	2	2	3	4	9	12	14
Fuhais	10	3	1	1	5	8	14	12
Baqaa	10	3	1	1	5	7	14	12
Yarmouk	9	3	—	—	6	7	17	9
Sahab	11	1	1	2	7	9	19	8

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A TRICK IN TIME SAVES ALL

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ 5 2

♥ J 6 5 2

♦ A K 10 8

♣ A Q 4

WEST

♠ K Q J 9

♥ 10 4

♦ 7 4 2

♣ 10 6 5 5

SOUTH

♠ A 10 5 3

♥ A 9 7 3

♦ 6 5

♣ K J 9

The bidding:

North East South West

1♠ Pass 1♥ Pass

2♥ Pass 3NT Pass

4♥ Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Timing a hand is a nebulous concept, hence one of the most difficult aspects of the game to teach. On this deal declarer needs to draw trumps to guard against possible spade overruns, while making sure dummy retains enough trumps to take care of losers in the closed hand.

South's jump to three no trump showed a balanced hand with game-going values, but only four hearts, to protect against the possibility that

North had made a value raise with three-card support. With a low doubleton and four hearts, North's preference for four hearts was clear.

Suppose declarer were to win the king of spades with the ace and play the ace and another heart immediately. East can cash a third heart, leaving dummy with only one trump, and in the end declarer will have to concede two spades and end up losing two tricks in each major suit. Winning the ace of spades and returning a spade runs the risk of the defenders playing a third round of spades and overruffing the fourth spade.

Correct technique is to allow the king of spades to hold the first trick. West can do no better than continue spades. Declarer takes the ace and leads a low heart. East wins and, says, returns a diamond. Declarer wins on the table and leads a trump to the ace. When both defenders follow, the contract is cold.

Declarer abandons trumps to pursue spade ruffs on the table. After one is in the bank, the king of clubs is an entry to the closed hand for another spade ruff. The defenders can score their high trump whenever it pleases them, but that is the third and last trick for the defense.

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	PHILADELPHIA		CONCORD		PLAZA		Nabl Al Mashini Theatre		ANLAM THEATRE	
	Richard Gere, Julia Roberts in PRETTY WOMAN Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '1' Clint Eastwood — in IN THE LINE OF FIRE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Kim Basinger — in Two Hot To Handle Shows: 3:15, 6, 8:15, 10:15		Ahmad Zaki and Mahmoud Hamideh in AL BASHA (ARABIC) Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		presents a play entitled: Al Him Nuron A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Deoud Jaleel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali in addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold at day		Nabl & Hisham's Tel.: 625153 ANLAM THEATRE The political comedy WELCOME ARAB SUMMIT Daily 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes Saturday and Sunday English synopsis available The Theatre will be closed from 25/12/93 till Monday 3/1/1994	

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rockfall killed 42 in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — The bodies of a mother and six of her children, pulled from the rubble of Cairo houses crushed when a 3,000-tonne boulder broke off an escarpment, lifted the final death toll to 42, Al Ahram newspaper said Sunday. The boulder fell from the Moqattam hills on the edge of Cairo on Tuesday, crushing nine houses. Nine people were also injured, and rescue operations ended on Saturday. Al Ahram newspaper said the attorney-general's office had commissioned a scientific committee to study the reasons for the rockfall.

Relief situation in Sudan improves

KHARTOUM (R) — The U.N. has noted improvement in deliveries of relief aid to victims of famine and civil war in southern Sudan, the official Sudanese news agency said on Sunday. The United Nations acknowledged the change during meetings from Dec. 9 to 14 in between a U.N. team led by Vierti Traler, U.N. special envoy for humanitarian affairs in Sudan, and a government team headed by Dr. Ibrahim Abu Out, a minister of state for social planning. "The two sides noted that there has been significant increase in the volume of deliveries and the number of locations relief aid has been able to go to by rail and river routes," the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said.

Iran cracks down on video distributors

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has tightened its controls on video and audio tapes by requiring licences for their distribution, Tehran Radio reported Sunday. The new restrictions passed by Iran's parliament were the latest moves to restrict access to Western movies and music, regarded as a corrupting influence. Anybody caught renting or selling tapes without a licence would face having their business shut down and a fine of 10 million rials (\$5,700), the radio said. "Law enforcement bodies have been instructed to shut down places suspected of not complying with today's ruling and to arrest offenders," the radio said. Until recently, taped movies were illegal in Iran. That restriction was relaxed. But the latest moves were a step back towards greater regulation of the thriving video business in an attempt to make sure that the movies are acceptable to Iran's theocratic government.

Tunisia's trade union supports Ben Ali

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's only trades union has thrown its weight behind President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali ahead of presidential elections next March and sacked three of its leaders known to be independents. The 350,000-strong General Union of Tunisian Workers, one of the oldest unions in Africa and the Arab World, also renewed the mandate of its Secretary-General Ismail Sahbani for a new five-year term at the end of its three-day congress Saturday. The majority of the 515 delegates adopted Mr. Sahbani's moderate line by passing a resolution to "present" Mr. Ben Ali's candidacy for the March 20 presidential elections, and by backing Mr. Sahbani's list of 13 candidates for the executive office.

26 bodies dug out of Kuala Lumpur ruins

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Rescue workers, wearing masks and machinery, dug out 26 bodies Sunday from the ruins of a Malaysian condominium that collapsed and entombed 54 people. The find lifted the death toll in Malaysia's worst building disaster to 29 as rescuers gave up hope of finding any survivors in the rubble. Malaysia's acting police chief Rahim Mohammad Noor ordered excavators and other heavy equipment to be used for the first time Saturday, a week after the apartment block collapsed. Prior to this, rescue workers, including experts from France, Japan and Singapore, had been using shovels and hand tools to tunnel their way into the debris.

8 killed as fire destroys Lahore shops

LAHORE (AFP) — At least eight people were killed and more than 20 injured when fire destroyed an entire shopping complex in the Punjab capital, officials said here Sunday. Rescue teams were digging into the rubble to search for people feared trapped under collapsed buildings, police said. An official told AFP that the fire started in a kite shop in southern Lahore's Baghbanpura district, where kites were being prepared for the coming spring festival. It spread to a fireworks shop which exploded, engulfing most other shops in the complex, he said. Residents said the explosion could be heard several kilometres away. Police said at least 100 shops and houses were damaged, 18 of them "totally gutted" in the blaze which burned from late Saturday until dawn Sunday. Eight bodies recovered from the debris included a woman and her two children.

Indian parliament approves rights body

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The Indian parliament on Saturday gave its approval to the country's first national human rights commission, with powers to probe rights violations by the security forces. The lower house passed a bill to set up the commission here and similar bodies in various states "to meet the growing concern in the country and abroad about human rights violations." Home Minister Shankarrao Chavan said the human rights commission was necessary "to foil the designs of some countries to malign India at the United Nations and other international fora." The eight-member body, to be headed by a retired chief justice of India, will have powers to investigate petitions by any individual or group of persons whose rights are violated.

Bangladesh executives held over drug ban

DHAKA (R) — Four Bangladeshi pharmaceutical executives have been arrested and jailed for manufacturing a medicinal syrup which was banned after adulterated forms of the drug killed hundreds of children, police said Sunday. The executives of BCI Pharma Bangladesh, Rex Pharma Bangladesh and Ad-Flame Pharmaceuticals were detained on Saturday and charged with producing paracetamol syrup in violation of a government ban, they said. They were being held under the 1974 special powers act, which enables police to detain suspects without trial for up to three months. Bangladesh banned the sale and use of the anti-fever syrup last year after a study found that adulterated forms containing diethylene glycol killed hundreds of children through kidney failure.

Djibouti students riot over scholarship

DJIBOUTI (R) — Police arrested 26 young people in Djibouti when students at two secondary schools rioted after hearing rumours that scholarship grants would not be paid, the headteacher of one of the schools said. The students, ignoring assurances that the money would be paid this week, went on the rampage on Saturday and damaged more than 30 cars, broke windows and smashed school equipment, he said. In southern Djibouti, the opposition staged a political rally as members of the Afar tribe staged a day of mourning in memory of people killed two years ago in clashes between civilians and government security forces. The rally passed off peacefully.

Peace forum opens in Addis Ababa

ADDIS ABABA (AFP) — A reconciliation conference organised by Ethiopian opposition groups opened here on Saturday with a call for the release of seven opposition leaders arrested when they returned from exile to attend the talks. The transitional government of President Meles Zenawi did not attend the conference and has dismissed it as a "propaganda exercise." In all, 51 Ethiopian political parties, including 31 exiled movements are taking part plus some 60 "wise men" from all over the country, out of 205 participants invited to attend, 165 took their seats including 31 members of the diplomatic corps. The Oromo Liberation Front which broke ranks in June 1992 with the Zenawi government did not attend following the arrest on Wednesday of one of its leaders.



MOTHER'S CRY: A Palestinian woman shouts following a stone-throwing incident Sunday in an Israeli soldier as she attempts to save her seven-year-old son released after he was detained

Regent stresses need to promote sports movement

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday emphasised the need to launch national efforts to promote sports at all levels in Jordan.

With physical activity, man helps up a sound mind and healthy body, and sports help communities to strengthen social communications and contacts in the most positive manner, the Regent said at the opening of a national conference dedicated to promoting the role of the sports movement in Jordan.

A few years ago, man was not giving due attention to sports because he used to have national exercise through working in the fields and through walking to and from work or horse-riding for transport, the Regent noted.

"Now that man has moved to a settled life, he has started realising the importance of sports for health, and hence sports and physical education found their way into schools, factories and production centres," he said.

Prince Hassan said the sports movement in Jordan

had been developed since the days of the emirate and the creation of schools noting that the creation of sports centres and colleges have been serving as very positive and effective factors in promoting the sports movement in the Kingdom.

Nothing that Jordan has been participating in the sports events in the Arab World and abroad, the Regent said that the Kingdom was striving to attain high results in international sports championships.

Noting that sportsmen cost their nations a fortune, the Prince said that there was need for preparing Jordanian youth to attain major sports successes.

He said there was no alternative to supporting sports clubs and giving continued training.

There is a pressing need for financial resources to be invested in this scheme coupled with the creation of sports facilities to ensure continuous training for the youth, he said.

Colleges and educational institutions should give due attention various types of sports, the Regent said, noting that one third of the Jordanian

population was youth.

But he also stressed the need for factories and companies to give due attention to positive steps contributing to the success of the sports movement in the country.

Special attention, he added, should be given to the handicapped and women and the elderly since sports is the right of every citizen.

The Jordan National Committee, which was formed two years ago, could now embark on new steps by implementing a comprehensive plan that caters to the needs of various sectors, the Regent said.

The Regent later chaired a meeting at the Royal Cultural Centre for the Higher Council of the Federation of Martial Arts. He urged the council to promote martial arts by providing financial and moral incentives to the players.

The national tae-kwan-doo team, will be participating in the Asian Championships to be held in the Philippines the last week of January. The Regent urged the council to exert all efforts toward ensuring the success of the team.

U.S. hardening stand on Iraq

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The Clinton administration wants to impose tough new requirements for lifting the United Nations ban on Iraqi oil exports, the New York Times reported Sunday.

The United States is urging other U.N. Security Council members to insist that Baghdad recognise Kuwait as an independent country and stop "persecuting" dissident Kurds and Shiite Muslims, the newspaper said.

These would be conditions added to those already in place that Iraq disarm and let the United Nations monitor its military industries.

So far, Britain, France and Russia are supporting the U.S. position, the Times said.

In an interview with the newspaper, Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, laid out the Clinton administration's position.

She told the newspaper that Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. commission overseeing Iraq's disarmament, must first certify Baghdad has abandoned its nuclear, chemical and biological arms programmes, then the special commission must also show it is able to monitor the Iraqi military industry.

"I've said we want a proven track record of six to 12 months' monitoring," Ms. Albright told the New York Times.

But also, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein must give "clear evidence of respect for Kuwait's borders" and also "show respect for his own people" by ending his blockade of the Kurds and his attacks against dissident Shiite Muslims, she told the newspaper.

In the last year oil prices have dropped from \$18 a barrel to \$14.30 a barrel. This was mainly because of weak demand, but also because the market concluded Iraq was trying to strike a deal with the Security Council that would allow it to sell oil again, the Times said.

The tougher U.S. position on lifting the embargo could lead to a rise in the price of oil, the newspaper said.

Palestinian clashes

(Continued from page 1)

Saturday by the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas.

Palestinian sources said Hamas was again trying to mediate in Rafah on Sunday, calling together local community leaders.

Dr. Abdal Shafi is a widely respected figure in Gaza and has arbitrated in previous reconciliation talks between Fatah and Hamas.

Masked men killed three Palestinians, at least one a suspected collaborator, overnight on the occupied Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said. A 24-year-old believed to have cooperated with the

Israeli authorities was shot dead in the head and stomach on a Gaza City street. The man's father was killed as a collaborator by Hamas two years ago.

An unidentified man in his 40s was found hanged, with his hands tied behind his back in a field in the town.

And a 28-year-old Palestinian was also strung up on a farm at Deir Al Balah after being tortured.

The hanged man had been abducted by masked Palestinians, the sources said, but no group claimed responsibility for the killings.

PLO wants reopening of banks delayed

(Continued from page 1)

He said the PLO had requested from Jordan that include an article which states that the banking accord would only be operative until Palestinian authority was established in the occupied lands.

"We have definitely included this phrase in our banking agreement, and it is only natural to reconsider or cancel an agreement when another authority takes over the West Bank," a Jordanian official said. "Right now, we have reached agreement with the occupying power, but when the original authority of Palestinians in the West Bank takes over, a new agreement would have to be negotiated."

Although several PLO officials justified Jordan's diminished coordination with the PLO by blaming Mr. Arafat for delaying the ratification of the economic pact, other officials defended the PLO chief by saying it was premature for the PLO to commit itself to economic agreements when it was not assured of the extent of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip and Jericho and who would control the border points.

"How can the PLO sign an economic agreement with Jordan on free trade and freedom of movement across the bridges if Palestinians don't control the border point between Jericho and Jordan," questioned a Palestinian economist.

Mr. Arafat and Palestinians in general seek to keep their options open, hoping to achieve symbols of statehood before they sign economic agreements with either Jordan, Egypt or Israel, officials said.

They said two weeks ago, in the PLO-Israel economic talks in Paris, Israel agreed that the Palestine National Authority, which would act as government in the occupied territories during the interim period, would set up a central monetary institution, which would have all the powers of a central bank, excluding the right to issue Palestinian currency.

A central bank without the right to issue currency meant that the PNA would have to seek the CB's permission to carry out the CB's operations inside the occupied territories since the dinar is the legal tender there.

"We are quite aware of the fact that Israel is seeking to drive a wedge between Palestinians and Jordan, but unfortunately we are allowing it," one PLO official said. "Either the three parties sit down and agree or else Israel will seek bilateral accords to its advantage."

PLO officials said it was unlikely Mr. Arafat would sign the economic accord in the near future. They said Mr. Arafat was currently preoccupied with other priorities such as securing the already delayed implementation of the PLO-Israel accord.

'New proof' links Syria with Lockerbie

LONDON (Agencies) — New evidence has emerged of an alleged Syrian link to the bombing of an American airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland which killed 270 people five years ago this week, British media reported Sunday.

Britain and the United States blame the bombing on Libya, now under international sanctions over its refusal to hand over for trial two Libyans accused of the blast.

But British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) radio said electronic timers of the type used in the Dec. 21, 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 could have found their way to Syrian-based guerrillas through the former East German Stasi secret service.

A similar report in the Sunday Times newspaper said the prosecution case against Libya "may now be on the verge of collapse."

Syria was initially suspected of involvement in the bombing but blame was swiftly transferred to Libya based in large measure on the sophisticated timers — produced by a small electronics firm in Zurich.

The BBC said the principal of the firm, Edwin Bolter, had originally told Lockerbie investigators he believed that prototypes of the timers — a piece of which was found among the debris of Flight 103 — had been supplied only to Libya.

At the time he "was certain it (the timer) was among a batch he sent to the Libyan military in 1985," the Sunday Times recalled.

However, Mr. Bolter told the Sunday Times: "I remember giving samples to the electronic office for the sale of military equipment at the East

German Defence Ministry."

"A British official came to my office recently and we told him the whole story. He went through all my papers and took many notes. Possibly the inquiry blaming Libya will change," Mr. Bolter said.

Mr. Bolter, the BBC reported, had since recalled taking two of the timers to the East German army in 1985.

In a transcript of a radio show to be broadcast on Tuesday night to mark the fifth anniversary of the bombing, the BBC quotes Mr. Bolter as saying he took the timers to East Berlin.

Lockerbie investigators are aware of this, the BBC said. The media reports draw a link between the Stasi and the Syrian-based Palestinian group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command, led by Ahmad Jibril.

A Syrian link has often been reported in the British media. Such claims form part of the basis of a proposed film on the Lockerbie bombing which repeats the claim that it was financed by Iran through Syrian intermediaries in retaliation for the shooting down of an Iranian airliner by a U.S. warship.

The Sunday Times said the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the United States had traced a transfer of \$12 million paid by the Iranian government into Mr. Jibril's Vienna bank account.

The newspaper said Western intelligence reckoned Mr. Jibril's group had been commissioned by Iran. It did not specify which Western intelligence.

PKK said to have moved from Lebanon to Iraq

BAHRAIN (AFP) — A Kurdish rebel group fighting for an independent state in southeastern Turkey has moved its bases from Lebanon to northern Iraq, a senior Iraqi Kurdish leader was quoted as saying on Sunday.

Masoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), told the London-based Al Hayat newspaper about 1,000 members of the Kurdish Lahour Party (PKK) had moved their bases from the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon to Zali, in northern Iraq, and had started training.

"We were against such a move from the start, but for reasons we cannot mention we have maintained silence," he said.

This violates the agreement signed with the government of Kurdistan, stipulating that the PKK should not engage in any military activity or training inside our areas."

Mr. Barzani did not explain why the PKK had moved its fighters from Lebanon, but Syria has been under pressure from Turkey to expel the Kurdish rebels, who have been fighting Ankara since 1984.

My description of the PKK rebels as "terrorists who pose the biggest threat to the future of the Kurdish nation," and threatened action against them.

"The PKK must not be pre-

sent in our areas. What it is doing inside Turkey is not our business. But we cannot accept the presence of this party inside our region and will use force, if necessary, to prevent its members from entering our areas," he said.

"We wonder why Iran supports this party and opposes the Kurdish administration. PKK elements consider themselves as an alternative to the Kurdish administration in northern Iraq and they interfere in everything. But we will stop such practices and we believe this is a sacred duty."

Mr. Barzani said the Iraqi Kurds wanted good relations with Iran on the basis of mutual respect, but added that they rejected any pressure.

"I do not understand what Iran wants. In the summer the Iranian Kurdish rebels moved 40 to 100 kilometres inside Kurdish territory, but Iranian shelling continued and stopped only last week," he said.

Mr. Barzani also called for more world pressure on Baghdad, and warned that lifting the no-fly zone imposed by the West on northern Iraq would result in a disaster.

"We expect a disaster if that happens. Most Kurdish people will become refugees and be subject to a campaign of annihilation. The war will move to the mountains and the situation will become tragic," he said.

Shalikashvili in Somalia over troop withdrawal

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — The United States' top military officer General John Shalikashvili arrived in Somalia Sunday to discuss the U.S. troop pullout and worries by a nervous U.N. alliance that the move could plunge the country back into war.

"The general will be here for two days. He will be meeting with the troops, visiting their bases and holding discussions with U.N. officials and commanders," Lieutenant Colonel Mike Gannon told reporters.

U.S. troops began to pullout last Thursday and in the past three days a total of 1,450, including 650 combat troops, have gone. Another 380 will leave on Monday, said Col. Gannon.

Officials said Gen. Shalikashvili, chairman of the U.S. military Joint Chiefs of Staff, would discuss details on the final pullout of all 8,100 Americans whom President Bill Clinton has promised will be out by March 31.

U.N. military officials said on Sunday their meeting with Gen. Shalikashvili would work out who will replace the Americans, and other details such as their logistical and equipment support.

These questions have to be answered if there are to be any dreams of keeping the U.N. operations intact after the March withdrawal," one U.N.

military officer told Reuters. The U.N. has grown increasingly worried after announcements that beside the Americans, the former colonial power Italy and Germany would also pull their forces out of Somalia.

Italian Defence Minister Fabio Fabbri, who also arrived in Somalia Sunday, held talks with Gen. Shalikashvili which officials say centred on Rome's plan to withdraw from its former colony.

Officials say both the U.N. and the U.S. are trying to persuade Italy to stay and help keep the U.N. alliance together.

"But our answer is why should we stay when the world's most powerful and richest country (the United States) is hacking out. We are yet to find a good answer to that question," an Italian official, who declined to be named, told Reuters.

An Iranian newspaper said Sunday the defeat of U.S. policy in Somalia should be seen as a failure for an American-led "new world order."

"The (U.S.) defeat in Somalia should not be considered as the failure of the policies adopted by the former secretary of defence... (but) as yet another defeat for America's so-called new world order," the English-language Tehran Times said in an editorial.

COLUMN

Clinton goes Christmas shopping, browsing

WASHINGTON (R) — Like millions of Americans across the nation, President Bill Clinton did his part to help the U.S. economy by doing some Christmas shopping and a lot of browsing. A week before the holiday, Mr. Clinton went to a complex of stores at the Union station train depot on Capitol Hill with two old Arkansas friends: Webb Hubbell, who is assistant U.S. attorney general, and Marsha Scott, director of presidential correspondence. Mr. Clinton's last shopping spree, a week ago in New York, created bedlam and chaos. The scene Saturday was much calmer.

His first stop was a store called Playtump. The president used a Visa Card to buy two artsy picture frames at \$2 each, a lollipop and some shortbread cookies. As hundreds of other shoppers crowded around for a look, held at bay by a phalanx of Secret Service agents, Mr. Clinton walked past a store that featured full-length cardboard cutouts of himself and his wife Hillary Rodham Clinton. He marvelled at a large miniature train set, recalling his own train set from boyhood days, then paid cash for \$2.99 worth of tea bags at the Made in America Store. Moving on to a hat store called the Proper Topper, Mr. Clinton whipped out the Visa Card again to buy a black velvet hat at \$34.98. He browsed at a commemorative coin store called the United States Mint, then moved into a large hall with a number of jewelry stores. At a store called Aurea, Mr. Clinton purchased a necklace of African amber and lapis, red coral and silver from India. A clerk declined to give the price but Mr. Clinton got "a really good price," paying with an American Express card.

Prince Edward ready to wed

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince Edward is in love with business consultant Sophie Rhys-Jones and is ready to marry her next year, the News Of The World newspaper reported Sunday. The tabloid said bachelor Prince Edward, Queen Elizabeth's youngest son, had enjoyed a secret romance with the 28-year-old strawberry blonde for three months. "Now the betting is that Prince Edward, fifth in line to the throne, will choose March 30 — his 30th birthday — to announce their engagement," said the report by author Andrew Morton. Mr. Morton said the couple had become inseparable and spent evenings alone at the prince's apartments in Buckingham Palace and weekends in his private quarters at Windsor Castle. The queen has invited Ms. Rhys-Jones to dine with her several times, added Mr. Morton. No one was available at Buckingham Palace for comment. Mr. Morton wrote a biography of Princess Diana, Diana Her True Story which foretold her December 1992 separation from her to the throne Prince Charles. Prince Edward's oldest brother, Mr. Morton said in the newspaper he had visited Ms. Rhys-Jones in her London office Friday to ask about her relationship with the prince and she had replied: "Prince Edward and I are good friends and we work together. He is a private person and so am I. I have nothing more to add." The report said the two met when Mr. Rhys-Jones, a consultant for a public relations firm, had helped Prince Edward to organise a charity fund-raising event.

Lewis visits seriously ill Australian

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — Legendary athletics King Carl Lewis arrived here Sunday from the United States after an impulsive decision to visit a seriously ill Australian teenage athlete who idolises him. Lewis touched down Sunday and left the airport immediately to meet 17-year-old Craig Sheppard of Melbourne. The teenager, a budding athlete, is suffering from a life-threatening heart disorder brought on by medication taken to combat muscle cancer which he has suffered since a baby. The illness has now limited the sports-mad youngster from competing in athletics and his inspiration has been Lewis.